MVA to target repeat Russian visitors. PAGE 2
Ex-cop admits using 'ice' again, other violations. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

'GOP candidates' immigration policies disastrous for CNMI'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) warned yesterday against the "disastrous" immigration policies touted by Republican presidential candidates Sen. Ted Cruz and Donald Trump, saying that neither of them would likely change their positions to accommodate the Northern Marianas if elected to the White House.

Sablan

Trump and Cruz this week called for an end to the U.S. visa waiver program in the wake of terror attacks in Brussels, Belgium that left 31 dead and 250 wounded.

Trump, who also has earned the personal endorsement of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, has called for temporary ban on all Muslins into the U.S. after the Paris attacks in last November and again after attacks in San Bernardino, California in December. He also wants to build a security wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

"These terrorist attacks [in Brussels] are horrific," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. "We pray for the victims and their families, and for the swift apprehension of all those who were involved in the planning and execution of these monstrous acts."

"But shutting down our borders is not the answer," he added.

See GOP on Page 4

73 pct. of Saipan has 24-hr water service

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Maui IV well needs extensive repairs

The number of areas with 24-hour water service on Saipan has declined from December of last year.

Currently, 73 percent of Saipan has 24-hour water, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Last December, 96 percent of Saipan's population has access to 24-hour water.

Some of the areas that have limited water services are Lower As Matuis,

See WATER on Page 4

Animal shelter to transfer to As Perdido

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The news of the animal shelter temporarily transferring to As Perdido was a welcome relief for Jaime Toytoy, one of the Animal Control Office staff of the Saipan Mayor's Office.

The animal shelter will temporarily use the quarantine facility of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources in As Perdido with the help of Apatang and DLNR Secretary Richard B. Seman.

"It's good news for us and the dogs. At least the remaining dogs here won't be put down," said Toytoy, who is one of the ACO staff who has been patrolling the streets to catch stray dogs.

Spencer Merchadesch is the ACO's program manager, while Rodney Babauta, Lee Mark Deleon Guerrero, and Ton Leon Guerrero make up the rest of his staff.

The Department of Public Works-Building Safety Code Division has condemned the animal shelter in Lower Base after the extensive

See ANIMAL on Page 4

JON PEREZ
The animal shelter in Lower Base will only be operational until March 31 and after that will wait for a scheduled demolition by the Department of Public Works. The DPW's Building Safety Code Division condemned the facility, which was built in a flood zone area.

INSIDE

LOCAL
Yonsei Academy's Kate Ishida received a full score during the recent 12th Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam.

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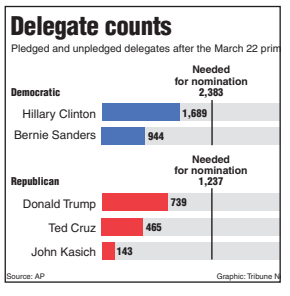

NATION
While Ted Cruz decried "gutter politics" against him, former Republican presidential contenders gave him a boost Wednesday.

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WORLD
Two pieces of debris recently discovered along the coast of Mozambique are "highly likely" to have come from missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.

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Local

MVA to target repeat Russian visitors

Tenorio

At the recommendation of its Russian Ad Hoc Committee, the Marianas Visitors Authority will target repeat visitors from Russia in its latest promotional campaign.

Ad Hoc Committee chair Elitza Stoilova reported to the MVA Board of Directors last Tuesday that almost all visitors from Russia at this time are repeat visitors. Due to the economic downturn in Russia, extreme devaluation of the Russian Ruble, and the cancellation of direct charter flights in August 2014, visitor arrivals from Russia have stabilized at a lower level, registering 932 visitors this fiscal year compared to 2,760 visitors over the same period last fiscal year.

"The Ad Hoc Committee has shared that repeat visitors are still booking trips to the Northern Mariana Islands, although they may cut their length of stay or level of service," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "To capitalize on that, we will launch a social media campaign for visitors who have been here before to generate exposure and enthusiasm for the destination among their online friends and contacts in order to bring new guests to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota."

The MVA approved $10,000 for the contest "Why I Love the CNMI? 5 Reasons We Wish to Go Back" on the MVA's Russian Facebook page, where visitors will share videos via YouTube of their trip to the Northern Marianas for the chance to win an all-expenses paid vacation in the NMI based on the number of votes received. The contest also aims to generate video content for the MVA to utilize in its other promotions. The video contest is tentatively scheduled to run from April 15 to June 30, 2016. ***(PR)***

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Ex-cop admits using 'ice' again, other violations

Former police officer Florencio Q. Richards, one of four participants in the Drug Offender Re-entry Program, was sanctioned with jail time for using methamphetamine or "ice" again.

At a revocation hearing on Wednesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona revoked Richards' supervised release and sentenced him to a term of time served.

Richards was placed on 24 months of supervised release.

During the supervised release, the defendant is required to, among other conditions, participate in a substance abuse treatment program, refrain from using or possessing controlled substance any alcoholic beverages, and perform 100 hours of community work service.

According to the minutes of Wednesday's hearing, attorney Michael Dotts, counsel for Richards, argued regarding defendant's employment and participation in the Drug Offender Re-entry Program, in spite of the missteps.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe, counsel for the U.S. government, had no objection to a time served sentence.

Manglona also noted that Richards had admitted to violating his conditions of supervised release back on Dec. 8, 2015.

At the DORE hearing on Tuesday, Manglona sanctioned Richards for his violation and remanded him to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Manglona ordered Richards to appear at the revocation hearing set last Wednesday.

Richards told the judge that he wants to continue participating with DORE Program.

The next DORE Program session will be on April 19 at 3:30pm.

During Tuesday's session, U.S. Probation Officer Gregory Arriola informed the DORE Team regarding Richards testing presumptive positive for his drug test prior to that day's session.

Arriola also disclosed that Richards had failed to appear for his drug testing on Feb. 28, 2016.

Arriola also revealed that Richards' employer stated that the defendant was given a verbal warning regarding his attendance.

Manglona and DORE Team members advised Richards regarding being honest about his actions.

Richards admitted to using "ice" apparently due to stress resulting from transportation issues, change in work schedules, and having to attend counseling sessions.

Richards apologized to the members of DORE Team.

Manglona told Richards that his honesty may have saved him from severe consequences.

Manglona accepted the recommendation by the DORE Team that it make a finding that Richards has not been in compliance with his terms of supervised release.

The judge also accepted DORE Team's recommendation not to grant Richards with credit of one month for his participation in the DORE Program.

At last December's revocation hearing, Richards admitted to the allegations that he used "ice" again and committed other violations while on supervised release.

Richards admitted to violating his conditions of supervised release and stated he had just started a new job at a gasoline station.

In August 2011, the federal court sentenced Richards to 24 months in prison for distributing "ice" while he was still an active officer.

On Jan. 30, 2014, Manglona revoked the supervised release of Richards and sent him to three months in prison with credit for time served for using "ice" again.

The judge ordered that after serving the three months in prison, the defendant will be placed on 33 months of supervised release.

In December 2014, the court revoked Richards' supervised release and slapped him with a nine-month prison term for violating his probation by repeatedly using "ice." He was then placed on 24 months of supervised release. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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House JGO moves two bills forward

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations adopted two bills, one to have local identification laws comply with federal law and another to transfer the expenditure authority of solid waste management funds from the Department of Public Works to island mayors on Tinian and Rota.

JGO chair Rep. Glenn Maratita (R-Rota) said his committee reviewed the lengthy legislation of House Bill 19-25, authored by Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), and finally adopted the bill with a committee report to be generated.

He said there have been no changes to the bill and they recommended for its passage in its current form without any amendment.

Demapan's bill amends commonwealth law to comply with the federal "Real ID Act of 2005" to "make it more difficult for criminals to obtain multiple license or IDs" and to enhance the security of existing drivers' licenses, according to the bill's findings.

Maratita said the committee took in the consideration of the comments from the then Department of Public Safety commissioner James Deleon Guerrero, who was in support of the bill.

Maratita added the bill was sitting in the committee because they were waiting for comments from several government agencies but the mover of the bill requested that they act on it.

"With the recommendation and opinion of the legal counsel we went and adopted" the bill, said Maratita said, adding that the Real ID act of 2005 required all states and territories to comply with this article.

The JGO committee also recommended for the adoption and passage on the committee level Senate Bill 19-60, authored by Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian).

The intent of Senate Bill 19-60 is to transfer the sub-accounts of the solid waste management revolving fund sub accounts to first and second senatorial districts respective mayors, giving them the expenditure authority of the funds.

"We had a lengthy discussion. We had the opportunity to invite the author…He provided a brief statement on the bill," said Maratita. "As indicated on the findings, it's a pretty much simple amendment we are trying to make here. This is only to transfer the sub-accounts."

The existing law allows the expenditure authority for all accounts to the be in the hands of the secretary of the Department of Public Works.

"The idea behind the bill is to allow for the mayor to be the expenditure [authority] for these sub accounts because the existing statute doesn't provide that provision," Maratita said.

Full schedule for 2 Japanese exchange students

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan has prepared a full schedule of activities for the two visiting Japanese exchange students. The two are from the Rotary Club of Tokyo Hachioji South and will be arriving at 3:05pm on Sunday, March 27, via Delta Air Lines.

Saipan Rotarians and Interact Club members of Kagman and Marianas high schools will welcome the students with a Happy Easter dinner at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Saipan Rotary president-elect Ivan Ilmov, director Sapuro Rayphand, Ken Kato, and Malou Malasarte are the working group that is tasked to take care of the two visiting students.

A tour around the island and nearby Managaha will officially start the itinerary of the two Japanese students on Monday.

After some games played at the Managaha beach, the Rotarians will then treat the two students to a sunset dinner cruise aboard the *Jade Lady*.

They will visit and spend the day at MHS on March 29 and 30, from 8am to 3pm, where they will participate with the day's activities and schedule of the school along with the Interact Club. They will also watch the magic show at the Hyatt Regency Saipan SandCastle on March 30, Wednesday.

The two will then visit KHS on March 31 and April 1 where they would again participate in the school's activities for the whole day from 8am to 3pm.

They will be part of KHS' college preparatory program together with the Interact Club members on March 31. The following day, April 1, they will join the art class and participate in a Japanese language class.

After school, Rotarians and Interact members will have the two students experience a cultural show of traditional Chamorro dances and local food offered at the Thursday Street Market at the Garapan Fishing Base.

On April 1, they will get the chance of touring the underwater sea life of Saipan via the Deepstar Submarine.

They will spend their final day on Saipan, April 2, either by swimming at the water park or hiking to Bird Island Beach. They will leave Saipan Saturday at 3pm.

Bangladeshis to celebrate Independence Day tomorrow

The Bangladeshi community on Saipan will be celebrating their country's Independence Day on Saturday at the Minatchom Atdapo Pavilion at Kilili Beach. The celebration starts at 7pm.

Bangladeshi Cultural Group president Rakibul Islam Minto is inviting all of his countrymen to join them in celebrating the 45th year of Bangladesh being an independent nation.

Cultural performances—like songs, dances, and poetry reading and recitation—have been lined up in the program for the day's event that is a national holiday in Bangladesh. More than 100 members of the Bangladeshi community are expected to join the celebration.

Celebration in Dhaka—the capital of Bangladesh—will be marked by flag hoisting and singing of the national anthem (Amar Sonar Bangla or My Golden Bengal from a song written by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore), parades, award ceremonies, singing of patriotic songs, entertainment, and other cultural programs.

Bangladesh, then known as East Pakistan, declared its independence from Pakistan by founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the late hours of March 25, 1971. Rahman became the country's first president and second Prime Minister.

For more information, call Minto at 4834448. ***(Jon Perez)***

GOP

From Page 1

"And what these Republican presidential frontrunners have proposed to do in terms of immigration policy would be disastrous for the Northern Marianas—for tourism as well as labor" and would "also adversely affect our nation's relationships with countries that are our friends and allies."

Sablan also pointed out that the CNMI's Chinese and Russian visitors are admitted to the Northern Marianas—not through the visa waiver program—but through the parole authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security.

"Which is completely at the discretion of the secretary and can be revoked at any time," Sablan added.

"If Mr. Trump or Senator Cruz is elected President neither would be likely to alter his national immigration agenda just to accommodate the Northern Marianas," Sablan said.

"Secretary [Hilary] Clinton, on the other hand, is both very well-informed about the issues in our region and committed to continuing the immigration policies established under the Obama administration, if she is elected president."

Sablan has publicly endorsed former secretary of state Clinton to be next president of the U.S.

Torres endorsed Trump earlier this month with the local Republican party following suit, casting 343 votes for Trump in the winner-take-all local GOP caucus last March 15, to help Trump overwhelmingly claim the CNMI's nine delegates.

Fox News reported Trump's and Cruz's renewed call to end the visa waiver program on Tuesday.

In 2009, the secretary of Homeland Security exercised discretionary authority to parole into the CNMI visitors for business or pleasure who are nationals of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China.

The Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2009 tasked Homeland Security to create a list of any countries from which the CNMI had received a "significant economic benefit" from the number of visitors for pleasure within the year preceding enactment of the law.

The department determined that the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Russia meet this economic threshold.

Parole is authorized on a case-by-case basis only for entry into the CNMI and does not extend to other areas of the United States.

Apatang: Be responsible pet owners

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang is once again reminding everyone to become responsible pet owners so they could do their part in his office's animal population control measures.

He said that stray dogs are also one of their main concerns with the Animal Control Office tasked to catch them.

"We keep on putting out the message and have been telling pet owners to become responsible. We're asking them again not to let the dogs out, register them, or tie them," said Apatang.

Pets, dogs or cats, are sometimes victims of road kill if their owners left them outside of their homes or have failed to secure them.

Apatang said that some of the stray dogs reach Garapan's tourist district where they chase everyone walking. "They are chasing tourists and that's not good. We want to keep unleashed pets away from the tourist district so they won't scare away the people."

Apatang lauded the efforts done by the Animal Control Office led by program manager Spencer Merchadesch and his staff Rodney Babauta, Lee Mark Deleon Guerrero, Ton Leon Guerrero, and Jaime Toytoy.

"There are also a lot of dogs at the beach side of Aquarius [Beach Tower] hotel where they multiplied. Sometimes, those who are spending their weekends at the beach feed them bones. The animal control staff had caught some of the stray dogs there," said Apatang.

He added that stray dogs, most of the time, have not been given vaccine for rabies and that's not good since they could bite a person. ***(Jon Perez)***

ANIMAL

From Page 1

damage brought by Typhoon Soudelor.

ACO personnel and volunteers from the Saipan Cares for Animals have until March 31, 2016, to use the facility in Lower Base.

"DPW will demolish this [animal shelter] to the ground. They're going to use bulldozers and clear everything here. The facility is no longer safe," said Toytoy.

"Even if a new facility is built here, they need to raise the floor by 6 feet since this is a flood zone area. That would cost the mayor's office more money," he added.

But that does not mean that they and SCfA volunteers would stop with the pet adoption program with ACO personnel still catching stray dogs.

Last Wednesday afternoon, a few minutes before the Saipan Mayor's Office closed for the day, ACO staff caught two stray dogs and are on their way back to the animal shelter in Lower Base.

In other news, SCfA is informing the public that the new batch of vaccines for the treatment of the canine parvovirus had arrived.

"We already worked things out with our supplier in Hawaii so we're going to get the vaccines in three days every time we order a new batch," said SCfA volunteer Nicole Essa.

For more information on the vaccines, call Essa at 788-3000 or visit the SCfA Facebook page www.SaipanCaresforAnimals.com.

WATER

From Page 1

San Roque, Tanapag, Sadog Tasi, some parts or Garapan, Navy Hill, China Town, Obyan, and As Terlaje Hill.

Aside from leaks and repairs, some problems from water sources were also identified.

Among them is the Maui IV Shaft well, which had portions of its cement wall collapse into its basin and resulted to a pump failure.

"The walls are starting to collapse so that well, that shaft has been decommissioned at this particular junction and documentation is being prepared to outsource the repairs and its going to be down for quite some time," CUC acting executive director Gary Camacho said.

The well is a source of water for Garapan, China Town, Puerto Rico, and Navy Hill areas.

"It's very crucial for that area of customers," Camacho added.

Asked how long the well will be unavailable, Camacho said. "Depending on the bids that's how long."

CUC cannot yet give a timeline on when Maui IV will be back in operations as extensive repairs are needed on the existing cements walls that are 220 feet deep.

Camacho said there is funding for Maui IV, however, they have yet to determine if it can be used for repairs of the walls.

House seeks DPS' views on bill to register car rental companies

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House of Representatives Committee on Tourism and Commerce chair Rep. Joseph Leepan Guerrero (R-Saipan) says they are gathering more information on a bill to mandate the registration of car rental vehicles and have these profit fees or fines go to funding such work.

Guerrero said the bill's author, Rep. Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan), requested they defer from entertaining the bill in their meeting Tuesday until they get the audience of the Department of Public Safety, "to give us an in-depth clarification of how private vehicles are being leased out or rented to tourism and other individuals."

HB 19-125 seeks to, among others, require a registration fee of $150 for car rental vehicles, and require rental car license plates to display a symbol, word, or letter that identifies them as such.

Portions of the funding from this bill will go to the creation of general rules of the roads manuals, which will be written, in different languages for visiting drivers.

"When [DPS] are out there doing their work and they come across this, how do they treat it? We don't know," Guerrero said. "The intent of the bill is to clarify this so this private business should be paying [business gross revenue tax] same as car rental" companies do.

"Legitimate car rentals are footing the bill while the others are enjoying the profit of it. So the CNMI government is losing," he added.

Guerrero added they deferred action to also request comments from the insurance companies, and are going to address the bill in their next committee meeting in April 12.

Sablan, the bill's author, earlier said the government needs to have accountability of how many vehicles are being registered as rental vehicles, especially with the rise of rental vehicle companies on island.

As driving is one of the main attractions and recreational activities for tourists, Sablan said, the CNMI has to make sure that "our community is safe from inexperienced operators."

State of disaster, emergency continued for 8th month

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres continued to effect a state of major disaster and emergency in the Commonwealth, the eighth time the state of disaster has been issued following Typhoon Soudelor last August.

Torres signed the executive order on Tuesday, March. 22.

"Typhoon Soudelor caused significant damage to public and private property," the declaration states.

In the earlier executive orders, the lack of utility services and disruption to critical infrastructure were cited in the declaration of disaster and emergency.

Typhoon Soudelor struck the CNMI on Aug. 2. As acting governor then, Torres first issued the declaration of disaster on Aug. 3, 2015.

On Aug 5, 201,5 President Barack Obama issued a major disaster declaration for the CNMI allowing for federal aid to the CNMI after the typhoon.

The Torres administration reported a deficit of $9.1 million for the fiscal year 2015, largely attributing this to Typhoon Soudelor and the network outage last July. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

Habitual offender placed under federal custody

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered that Cling Philip Kaipat, a habitual offender who is facing charges for possession of a gun and ammunition that he stole from the house of Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, shall remain in federal custody until such time his mental evaluation is completed.

Manglona said the U.S. Marshals Service or the Federal Bureau of Prisons shall take custody of Kaipat.

Manglona said upon completion of the court-ordered mental evaluation, the U.S. Marshals Service shall return the defendant back to the custody of the Department of Corrections commissioner, and/or any authorized agent.

The judge said Kaipat must be temporarily placed in the custody of the U.S. Attorney General for assignment to a suitable Federal Bureau of Prisons facility for the purposes of such psychiatric/psychological examination.

In her previous recent order, Manglona said in aid of determining whether Kaipat is competent to stand at trial, she ordered that a psychiatric or psychological evaluation be conducted and that such report be filed with the court.

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell H. Lorfing informed the court that he was told by the acting chief prosecutor of the CNMI Office of the Attorney General that their office was willing to allow Kaipat to enter into federal custody while he is being treated or the evaluation is being conducted.

It was Lorfing who requested the court to commit Kaipat to the custody of the Office of the Attorney General for placement in a facility in order to be evaluated by a psychiatrist or psychologist who will determine whether he is presently suffering from a mental disease or defect rendering him incompetent to stand trial.

Lorfing said there is evidence suggesting that Kaipat may have mental issues.

The indictment charged the 19-year-old Kaipat in federal court with possession of a stolen firearm and possession of ammunition.

According to the indictment, Kaipat unlawfully possessed a 9mm Smith and Wesson pistol, "which had been shipped and transported in interstate commerce" knowing that the firearm was stolen.

Kaipat also allegedly possessed a stolen hollow point 9mm round of ammunition.

Kaipat has a pending criminal case in local court.

At a preliminary hearing in November 2015, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found probable cause to charge Kaipat with burglary, theft, and criminal mischief over the burglary at Govendo's house.

Govendo was off-island when the burglary happened.

After police identified Kaipat as the suspect through a surveillance camera, the defendant then reportedly guided investigators to a trash bin at a bakery where he hid the stolen gun. Detectives recovered the judge's police-issued 9mm pistol. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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From:
The Office of Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero

Dynasty sued for allegedly failing to pay $3.1M for furniture, supplies

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Hong Kong-based corporation is suing the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino for allegedly failing to pay $3.1 million in outstanding balance for furniture and supplies that the hotel purchased during its 2013 and 2014 renovation.

3i Corp. Limited, through counsel Rexford C. Kosack, filed the lawsuit against Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd. for breach of contract.

3i Corp. asked the Superior Court to hold HKE liable to pay $3,053,779.80 in contract damages, plus attorney's fees and court costs.

Saipan Tribune yesterday tried but failed to get comment from Tinian Dynasty.

3i Corp. supplies furniture and interior decoration and design services to customers in the United States.

Kosack said that, on Nov. 27, 2013, plaintiff and HKE entered into a written contract for the refurbishment of Tinian Dynasty's guest rooms on the 5th and 6th floors.

Kosack said the contract amount of $3,250,000 is for indoor furniture.

The lawyer said that, on Oct. 3, 2013, plaintiff and HKE agreed upon a purchase order for outdoor furniture at a cost of $279,955.

Kosack said HKE ordered furniture and supplies for an additional 20 standard rooms and 22 executive suites.

Kosack said by mutual agreement, this increased the dollar value of the transaction from $3,529,955 to $4,853,779.80.

The lawyer said his client performed all of its obligations under the contract, the purchase order, and the additional order between Dec. 7, 2013 and Oct. 14, 2014.

Kosack said HKE has paid a total of $1,800,000 of the sum and still owes 3iCorp. $3,053,779.80.

Kosack said that, on Oct. 2, 2015, plaintiff provided an account statement to HKE, which acknowledged and confirmed such account statement by signing it.

According to court documents, it was HKE chair Michael Kwan and 3i Corp. Limited director Chen Chieh Yeh who signed the supply agreement.

The lawyer said under the contract's payment terms, a 30 percent cash deposit was required on or before Dec. 31, 2013, with the remaining amount due within 75 calendar days after issuance of an invoice.

The last invoice was issued on March 14, 2014.

Kosack said more than 75 calendar days have passed since that invoice and final payment has not been made.

'Hairspray' auditions extended

Friends of the Arts has extended auditions for 'Hairspray" until the show is fully cast.

FOA needs about four more adults and six more students to complete the cast. All should come prepared to sing as well as read for the audition.

If you are interested in being in one of the most high-energy Broadway shows to ever hit the stage, then contact MariLou or leave a message at 256-9540. Performances are scheduled for mid-to-late May. ***(PR)***

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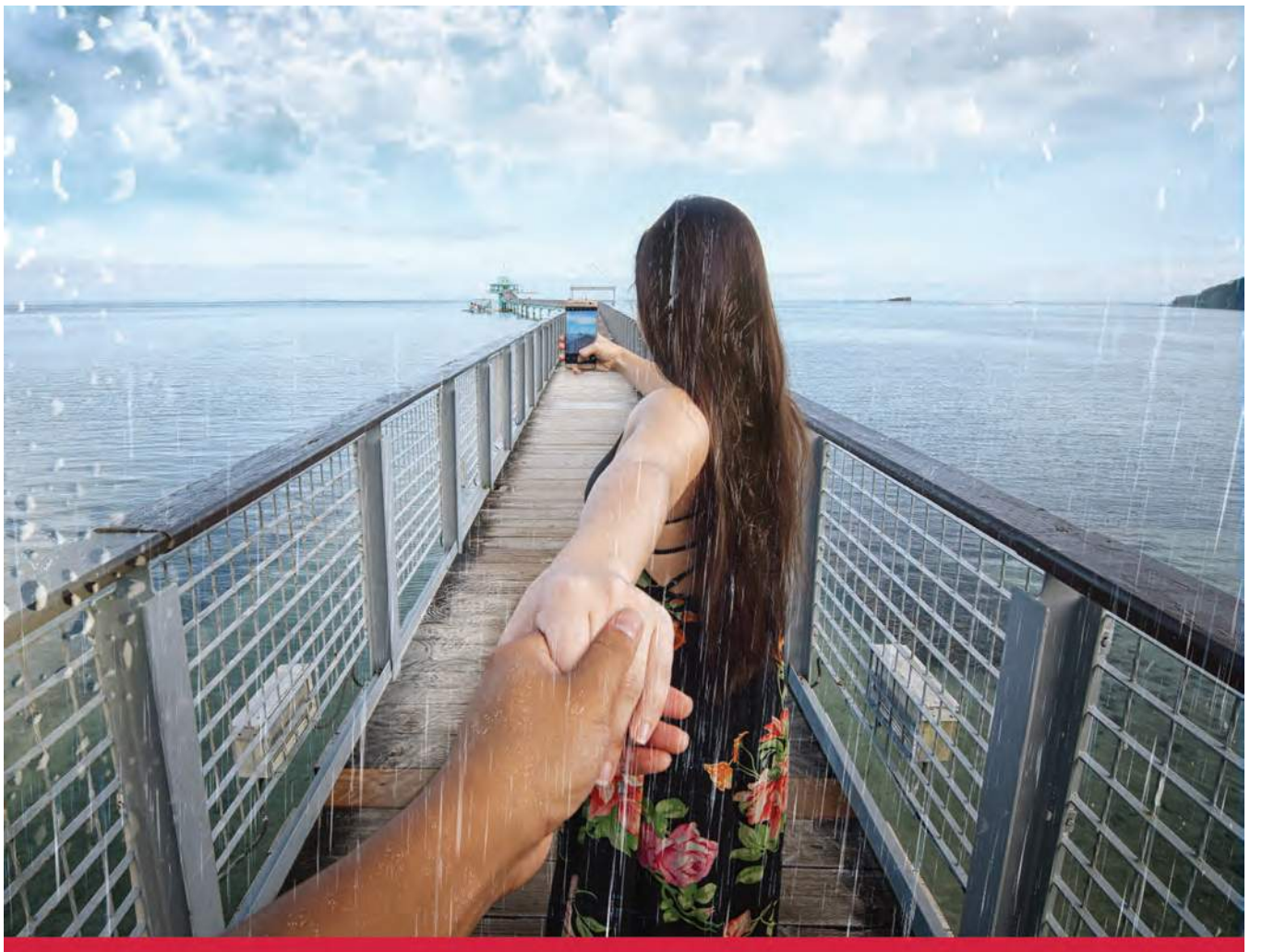
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CNMI Solar Energy Bill of Rights

By PHIL YORIO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Like any industry getting off the ground, the CNMI is starting to see exponential growth in the renewable energy industry over the last few years, and a lot more to come with solar energy systems getting cheaper and now the introduction of different programs to enable all homeowners to take advantage of solar energy. With that being said when you have that type of growth in any industry there needs to be some type of protection for the consumer. I believe it's time that the CNMI adopts a Solar Energy Bill of Rights. We have in the CNMI a few good solid solar energy contractors but we also need to be careful to educate the consumer being a relatively new industry so predatory companies do not take advantage of consumers that are not up to speed with an industry that is growing well, at lighting speed. What are the basics that consumers should know regarding solar energy before they jump in to save money, control their energy future, and take advantage of the net metering laws in the CNMI.

There are a few ways to become a patriot for the Green Energy Revolution while saving money and helping clean up our planet. You as a homeowner can do a direct purchase, this along with tax credits and the lower price of solar energy components should enable a hom owner to be debt free of the system and enjoy free energy from the sun for 25 plus years with a low monthly service fee from the utility. This still requires a big expense out of pocket but the payoff is rather quickly. If you cannot afford the out-of-pocket expense, you can still enjoy the benefits of solar energy with a power purchase agreement or lease arrangement. Power purchase agreements or leases are great but the devil is in the details the contractor should thoroughly explain these type of contracts in detail to the customer. A few items to watch out for that should be in these agreements are is the power production guaranteed. This is very important, If you lease a car and don't drive the car for a year every month you are still going to make that payment so you want a PPA or lease to state specifically that the power they are saying the system will produce they are backing this up in writing with a yearly review or true up, you do not want to get stuck paying for a solar system that does not work, has diminished production or is not maintained properly, and does not produce the power stated in the agreement there has to be a true up to see what the system has produced that year. Has the contractor thoroughly explained the contract, how much will the solar energy system offset your utility bill, if not 100 percent, what will you still be paying the utility, and never take anything for face value if they are giving you information ask them to show you this in the contract. Make sure that the expectations that were given are adhered to, timelines, milestones, other items to check such as is the contractor licensed to perform this work in the CNMI, are they getting CUC interconnection agreements and DPW permits. The last piece to the puzzle is and this is very important please check references ask them if they can give you a list of customers to call. A solar energy system can work well if installed correctly and pay for itself over time. But there are many factors that homeowners and businesses need to consider when choosing a solar contractor. Choosing a contractor who is knowledgeable and trustworthy while educating yourself in these programs will avoid any unwanted experiences and I cannot stress that enough educating yourself. Here are 10 items that I believe can be the start of the foundation to a check list for consumers to be aware of to join the green team to hedge your energy costs over the next 25 years and become a steward for a better community and a better planet.

Seller or installer shall provide consumer with all of the factual information that they will need to make a well-informed decision when purchasing, leasing or signing up for a power purchase agreement.

1. Seller or installer shall insure the customer that the renewable energy system being offered meets all of the standards of that particular type of technology being wind, solar energy or solar thermal systems adopted by the federal and local jurisdictions and that all materials being used have the Industry standard certification listed as approved products by the Underwriters

See SOLAR on Page 9

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Phil Yorio is the general manager of Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc.-CNMI.

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CPA: More yachts to come to Saipan

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Board approves permit for Phoenix Services

More yachts are expected to come to Saipan.

In a special board meeting yesterday, the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors approved a permit that will allow Phoenix Services Inc. to use Echo Dock for their incoming yachts.

"They are bringing in more yachts and we don't have enough pier space," CPA executive director MaryAnn Lizama said.

"When Echo Dock became available, they put in a request to utilize so they'll be able to provide berthing and mooring capabilities for the extra yachts that are coming in," she added.

Saipan Tribune learned that Phoenix Services handles Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s *Grand Mariana* yacht.

Lizama said Phoenix Services will not be using entire dock but just a portion of it.

"They only put in their request for berthing and mooring," Lizama said.

CPA said they don't have the exact number of yachts that are coming but the area permitted can hold up to five yachts.

Phoenix Services will pay $7,000 per month for the use of Echo Dock.

CPA clarified that they cannot provide them lease at this point because it would need a request for proposals, however there was an "immediate" need for the dock's use.

"We cannot provide them a lease because with the lease, we have to do a request for proposal. At its immediacy, we're giving them a revocable permit which is a month-to-month permit," Lizama said.

However, Lizama said she doesn't know when the yachts are coming.

"All I have informed is that they are coming," Lizama said.

While Phoenix Services will be using the Echo Dock, CPA will also look for bids for the dock.

"One of the conditions is that CPA will now go out and advertise for bids and within that process, they can still use it. They are welcome to put in their proposals for the RFP," Lizama said.

"In the event that they don't win the bid, the condition is they move out," Lizama said.

SOLAR

From Page 8

Laboratory Association.

2. Seller or installer shall ensure the customer that all material being used meets or exceed Industry standards for that particular technology an example would be providing the consumer a certification that a solar energy module is warranted for the 25-year term. All products in the renewable energy industry do have industry standards for production output, warranties and installation conditions that the seller or installer can educate the consumer so they can make an educated decision on what is being purchased and installed.

3. Seller or installer shall also educate the consumer on how they are installing the equipment, assuring the consumer that the product is being installed is per manufacturer's recommendation, and that all materials are approved for exterior and interior installation per the DPW local codes and the CNMI environment.

4. Seller or installer shall provide a detailed invoice clearly indicating the price of the technology being offered and clear details of parts, warranties and installation. If this is a lease or a PPA, the seller or installer shall go through the contract and have the consumer fully understand every aspect of the contract before final signature

5. Seller or installer shall guarantee customers that all systems installed will provide the maximum yield committed to by the seller on an annual basis. This is called a production guarantee and this shall be stated on the contract. If annual production guarantees are not met than the seller or installer shall be liable to the consumer for the amount of energy the system did not produce. On every system installed there will be a true up annually and for energy shortage on the system the consumer shall be reimbursed for this expense at the delta between the utility rate and the contractual rate per Kwh guaranteed.

6. Seller or installer shall notify the consumer of the assurance that the materials install are built to the CNMI wind loading per the Department of Public Works

7. Seller or installer shall guarantee a maintenance, trouble shooting and insurance program free of charge to the consumer for the life of the contract for lease and power purchase agreement financial structures

8. Seller or installer shall insure the customer that they respect all consumer protection laws and practices including the seven-day rescission period. After this period consumer can be liable for damages and this should be fully explained to the consumer.

9. The customer shall be promptly provided with all documents necessary claiming any and all tax credits or other incentives applicable, or notified in writing if the customer is required to give up any tax or other incentives associated with their renewable energy system per any lease or PPA agreements

10. No lien shall be placed upon a residential dwelling or commercial building as collateral for a renewable energy system. Fixture fillings or mechanics liens are acceptable.

GRAND VRIO RESORT SAIPAN

Our "Dolphin" restaurant (10th floor of Crystal Tower in Grandvrio Resort Saipan) will reopen as A-La-Carte restaurant from March 07, 2016.

Welcome to enjoy fast & nice Lunch ($8~) and authentic Japanese Shabu Shabu or Sukiyaki for your dinner ($35).
Open time: Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm Last Order: 1:30pm • Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm Last Order : 8:30pm.

Our "Tropicana" restaurant (2nd floor of Taga Tower) will open regularly with following schedule.

Welcome to enjoy fantastic buffet at our "Tropicana Restaurant"! Performance is available on Sunday Brunch; "Seafood & Sushi night" dinner buffet every Friday and Saturday.
Breakfast: 7:00am-10:00pm Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm Sunday Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm Dinner: 5:30pm-9:00pm

MARCH 11, 2016 FRIDAY	MARCH 12, 2016 SATURDAY	MARCH 13, 2016 SUNDAY	MARCH 16, 2016 WEDNESDAY	MARCH 18, 2016 FRIDAY	MARCH 19, 2016 SATURDAY
Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)	Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)	**Sunday Brunch $22**	Buffet Lunch $14	Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)	Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)
MARCH 20, 2016 SUNDAY	**MARCH 23, 2016 WEDNESDAY**	**MARCH 25, 2016 FRIDAY**	**MARCH 26, 2016 SATURDAY**	**MARCH 27, 2016 SUNDAY**	**MARCH 30, 2016 WEDNESDAY**
Sunday Brunch $22	Buffet Lunch $14	Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)	Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)	**Sunday Brunch $22**	Buffet Lunch $14

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Coral Ocean Golf Resort
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US govt tenders 24K documents in 'ice' shipment case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government only recently provided 24,000 documents to the counsels for two of three men charged over the shipment of 4.9 lbs of methamphetamine or "ice" worth $850,000.

Following this reason plus other factors, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona reset the scheduled April 26, 2016, jury trial of defendants Shiheng Cai and Zhaopeng Chen to July 19, 2016.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI during a pretrial conference on Wednesday that such voluminous documents were tendered over to defendants Cai and Chen, through their court-appointed counsels Mark Hanson and David Banes respectively.

Backe also disclosed to the court that the U.S. government was also waiting for laboratory results.

» Jury trial of 2 of 3 defendants reset to allow lawyers more time to prepare

Banes told the court about the need for additional time to work with these voluminous documents, as well as the need to get these papers translated.

According to the minutes of the hearing, Hanson spoke about the challenges regarding these voluminous documents and the substantial amount of foreign language documents.

Hanson moved to continue the trial set for April 26 based on discovery issues and the need to review pending laboratory reports.

Manglona granted the motion.

After the hearing, Cai and Chen were remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Cai's and Chen's co-defendant, Xi Huang, who was tagged as the alleged leader of the group, pleaded guilty last week to an indictment charging him with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

Huang's sentencing will be on July 8, 2016 at 9am.

According to the indictment, Huang, Cai, and Chen, conspired between Nov. 30 and Dec. 4, 2015, to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

A routine Customs inspection at the Port of Saipan of a 40-foot container from Guangzhou, China, resulted in the discovery of the 4.9 lbs of "ice" hidden in three plastic bags in one of the nine 5-gallon paint containers last Dec. 2.

Joint federal and local enforcers investigated the shipment, resulting in the defendants' arrest.

Underground tunnel found in CUC's Rota power plant

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An underground Japanese tunnel was accidentally discovered on Rota by a contractor of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

According to CUC acting executive director Gary Camacho, the tunnel was found earlier last month by their contractor who is "helping with a certain area of the power plant."

"The contractor was working on a certain area near the power plant and the certain area caved in and they found out it was a tunnel," Camacho said.

During CUC's board meeting last Monday, Camacho mentioned that their transformer and oil storage facility is directly above the tunnel.

Camacho said the tunnel is an elaborate one that goes in different directions noting that it looked something from the war era.

"It's all cemented, floors also, this is not dirt [tunnel]," Camacho said.

He added that a representative from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality on Rota was already able to do initial inspections of the tunnel, noting that nobody knew about the tunnel before the recent discovery.

Water and oil were found inside the tunnel although it is not yet clear where they came from and how they have been there.

Director Albert Taitano raised the question on who will be responsible for its clean up.

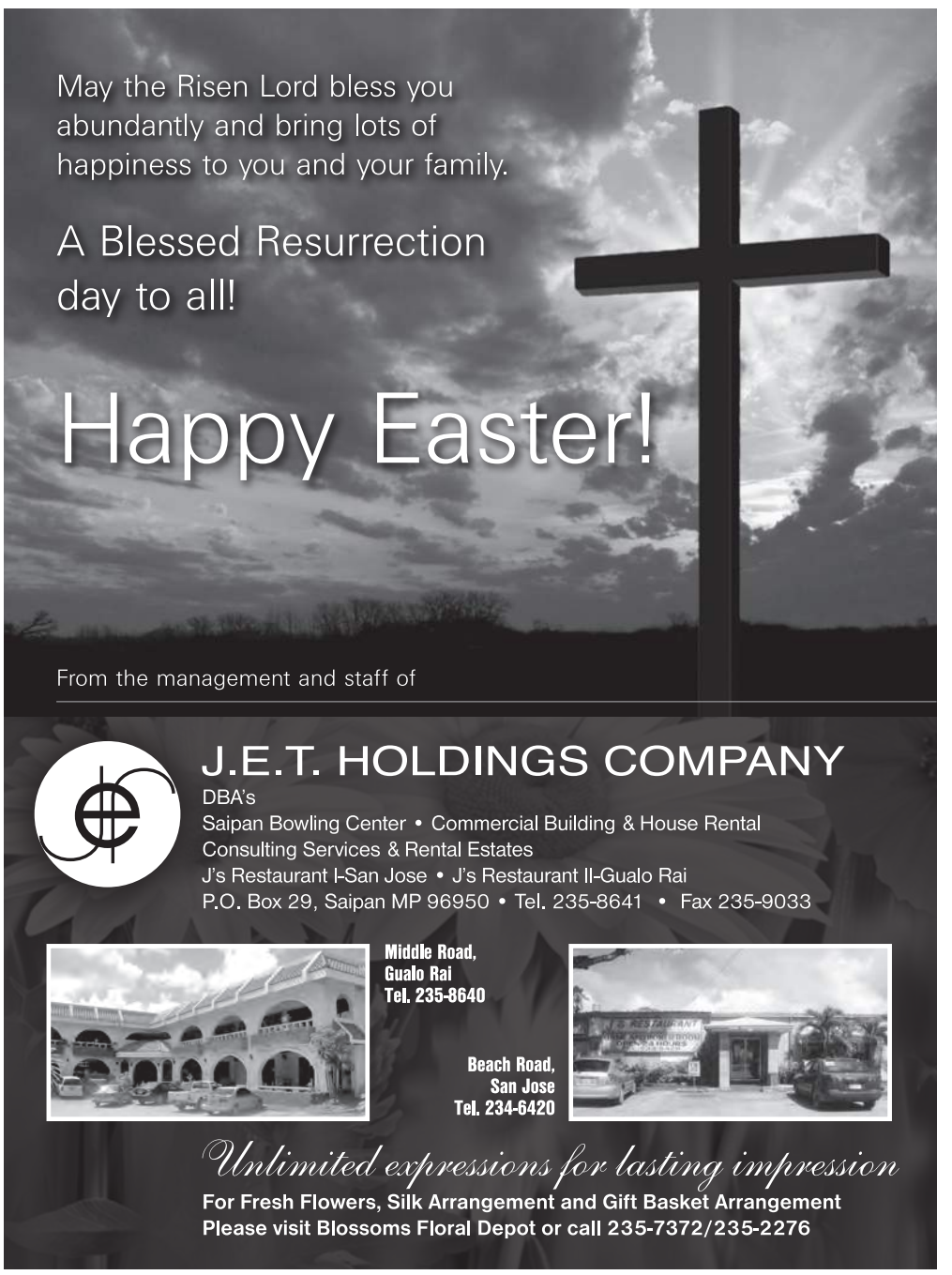
"Who is responsible for cleaning the oil sludge that's inside the Japanese tunnel? Is it us? Is it EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)?" Taitano said.

It is not yet clear who will be made responsible, and Camacho said they will be waiting for the evaluation.

"CUC's not taking any ownership at this time until such time that determinations have been made where and how long that oil has been there because that could be many, many years," Camacho said. "We'll wait for that evaluation."

Director Joe Torres, meanwhile, said that they can do their own assessment so that they can have their own records.

"We can take the lead to do the assessment just to make sure that when it pops up, we don't get the ending part of the fine," Torres said, "I recommend that we do the assessment for record purposes, so that when EPA comes in, we have a record."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A Blessed Resurrection day to all!
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Mount Carmel School offers mini-courses

Camping, weaving, dying T-shirts. These are just a few of the dozens of alternative courses that were taught this past week at Mount Carmel School as part of Mini-Course Week. In its 20th year at the school, Mini-Course Week gives junior high and high school teachers and students a chance to take a break from traditional academic instruction and dabble in hobbies and interests that engage students in hands-on learning.

For Junior Brianna Hunter, this year's mini-courses gave her a chance not just to learn something new, but to also share what she knows. In particular, she signed up for two sections of Crocheting as a teacher aide. As she said, "I already know how to do it, but it's an outlet for me, an opportunity to teach something that I know and love alongside a teacher." When asked about mini-courses in general, Hunter said, "I really like the whole concept of mini-courses because it allows students to find things that may turn into great hobbies, and allows them to discover things they probably didn't know they could do."

For 7th grade student, Tivana Torres, this was her first time taking a mini-course. Referring to the How to Make Coconut Candy Mini-Course, she said, "I didn't know how to before, but we learned how to make coconut candy." She added that the mini-courses have been fun for several reasons. "It's great to see everyone cooperating with each other, and it's how students get to do fun things with their teachers and students from other grades."

Mini-Course Week featured a wide array unique courses, including Survival Skills, Cooking, How to Make Rosete Cookies, and Introduction to College Admissions. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School 8th grade student Yudam Kim makes a hat in her Weaving Mini-Course.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Mount Carmel School juniors Rachel Xu, Angel Xu, and Shirley Chau show their creations in the Ty-Dyed Shirt Making Mini-Course.

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Includes: *Daily made appetizers, Crisp green salad bar with condiments and choices of dressings, Make your own sandwiches and choices of freshly bake breads, Assorted Cheese platter, Local cut fruits, Mouth watering desserts, Cakes, Ice creams and Bottomless Coca-cola Soda fountain.*

Please inquire also for group parties from 30 to 150 seats (Christening, Birthdays, Meetings or Seminars)

For reservation please call Aqua Resort Club @ 322-1234 ext. 731 or 732

May you feel the love of Christ this Easter and celebrate the new life that He promises for those who believe.

Happy Easter

From the Management & Staff of
Hafa Adai Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Pacheco appointed Triple J Saipan marketing manager

Pacheco

Triple J Enterprises, Inc. announced that Iliana Pacheco has joined as marketing manager for their Saipan group of companies.

Pacheco, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Denver, comes to Triple J with extensive marketing experience. She held previous positions as marketing lead where she built marketing programs from the ground up. More recently she held the position of brand and advertising manager for Best Sunshine International, Ltd.

Kristine Lujan, VP of Marketing & Public Relations said this about Pacheco, "Iliana could not have come at a better time, this is going to be a big year of exciting projects for our group in Saipan, she is results oriented and highly collaborative which makes her a strong fit for our team."

Jeff Jones, president of Triple J Enterprises, Inc., went on to say, "Our group of companies have a strong brand presence in our market and with Iliana's expertise will allow us to capitalize on that strength and help us to grow."

As the new Saipan marketing manager, Pacheco will handle day-to-day marketing tasks and coordinating marketing projects and activities for Triple J Group on Saipan.

Triple J Enterprises, Inc. has served the island community for over three decades. The Triple J group of companies has several major operations, which include the Triple J Auto Group, which represents Ford, Lincoln, Mazda, Honda, Acura, Kia, and a used car dealership. Triple J Commercial Tire, which services passenger cars, light trucks, and a full range of commercial vehicles and equipment. Triple J Rentals, the licensee for Hertz Rent A Car on Guam, Saipan, and Palau. Five Star Wholesale Foods, the distributor of high-quality food items including Certified Angus Beef, Hawaii Water, and Tyson food products. And Triple J Restaurant Group which owns and operates Outback Steakhouse in Guam, Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, and Truong's. ***(PR)***

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CNMI Labor secretary to speak at SHRM meeting

The Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter will have Edith DeLeon Guerrero, CNMI Secretary of Labor, presenting at its March general membership meeting.

DeLeon Guerrero will provide an introduction to the CNMI labor regulation and its compliance requirements for CNMI employers, This program will be of special interest to all HR professionals and managers, refreshing your knowledge on the CNMI Labor regulations, the JVA system and other employment issues.

This lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret on Thursday, March 31, 2016, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

This presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and HR professionals and staff to better understand the CNMI Department of Labor JVA system and other employment requirements. DeLeon Guerrero will provide an opportunity for questions.

The presentation includes the delicious PIC lunch buffet at the cost of $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Pina Deleon Guerrero by e-mail at pinadlg.shrm@gmail.com or by texting 285-7462 or Penny Jones by e-mail at penny.jones@hyatt-saipan.com or by telephone at 323-5868.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, you can visit their website at http://nmichapter.shrm.org. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOOT

Happy birthday Josiah. We love you and congrats! Greeting from Mom, Dad, and all who love you.

HE HAS RISEN
As we celebrate the miracle of His resurrection, we also celebrate the joy of His abiding presence in our lives.
MAY YOUR EASTER AND ALL YOUR DAYS BE BLESSED WITH HIS WONDERFUL LOVE.
"...It is true! The Lord has risen..."
Luke 24:34 (NIV)
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Easter Sunday Brunch
MARCH 27, 2016
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Brunch served from 11:00am to 2:00pm and children can participate in the EASTER EGG HUNT!
The Easter Sunday brunch is priced at $20 for all local residents
For reservations or further information, please call (670) 234-6601 ext. 742
Kanoa Resort
Saipan

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Divided Palestinians hurt their own cause

The government of the Palestinian Authority, aspiring to become an independent state, is in a lamentable position.

This is important—and unfortunate—for several reasons. The first is it affects 4.5 million Palestinians who live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in principle under PA authority. The second is that, if the Palestinians are to carry out meaningful, sustainable negotiations with the Israeli government, they need to be able to present a unified front, with coherent positions. It is certainly the case that, if the Israelis ever come to the table with serious intent, they will have prepared themselves thoroughly in advance.

Another reason is that the patience and willingness of the rest of the world to aid the Palestinians is greatly diminished by the divided nature of the Palestinian Authority.

Finally, there is the question of whether President Barack Obama should try once more to push for talks toward a Middle East agreement that might result in two states, Israel and Palestine, coexisting side by side. The general conclusion at the moment, considering the state of both the Israelis and the Palestinians, is that such an effort would be a waste of time.

One way for the Palestinians to make another outside initiative toward peace more attractive would be to clean up their act politically. They have not had elections since 2006. The term of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, now 81, expired in 2009 and has been extended without much thought, despite the fact that his leadership capacities are steadily diminishing. The Palestinians are divided in any case, with Abbas' Fatah party ruling in the West Bank, while Hamas and the more radical Islamic Jihad reign in the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian parties agree, more or less, only on continuing to abhor Israeli occupation and settlers, whose numbers continue to grow and now stand at an estimated 700,000. But the Palestinians could improve their prospects greatly through political reform, something that has been lacking for years.

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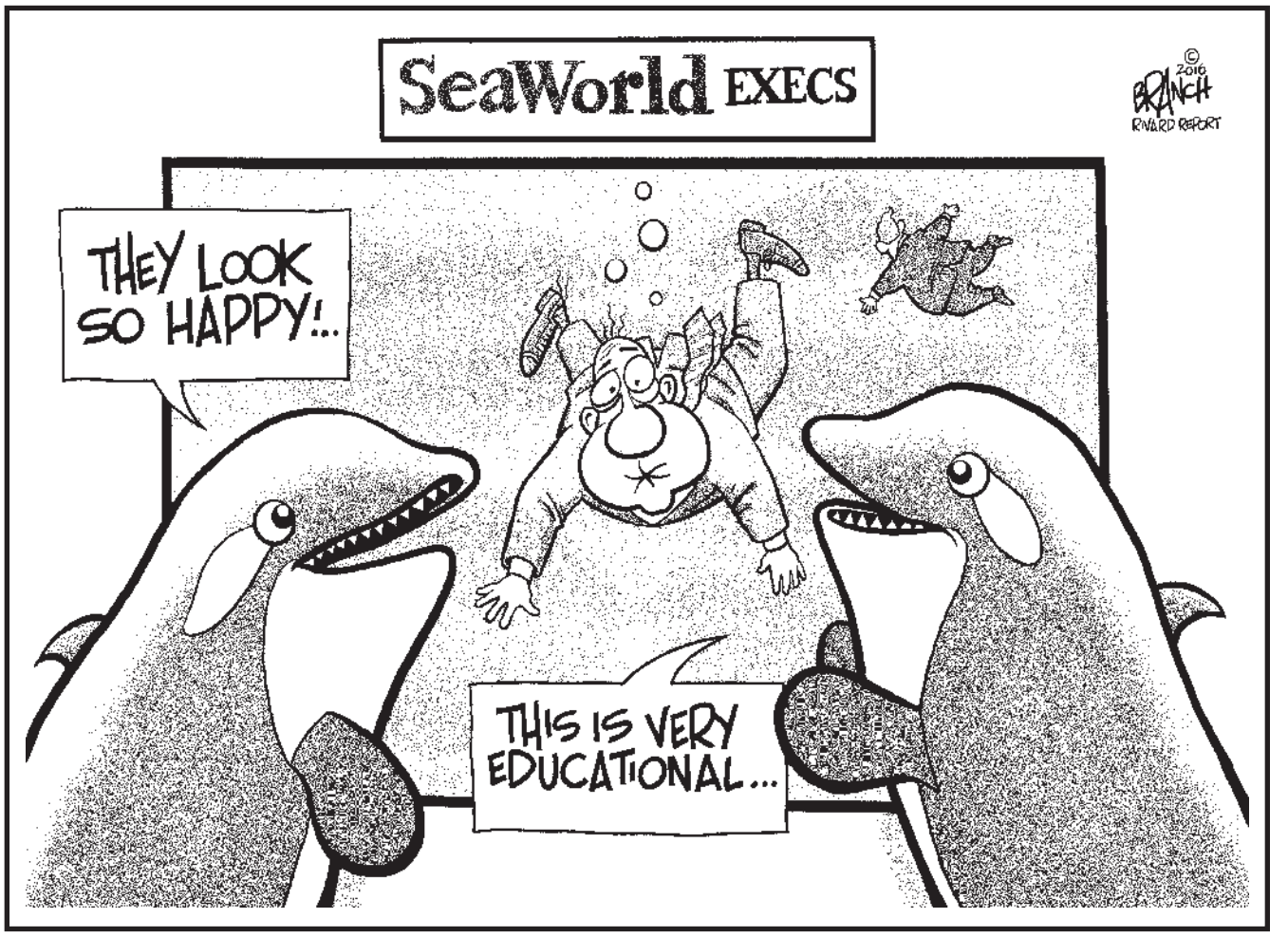

Earthrise Earthwise Earthbound

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Good Friday is the day folks solemnly trek up Mt. Tapuchao. This season of Lent where the question of what the living of one's life and the dying of one's death is all about, I find my love interest these days to be Gaia, the Planet Earth.

The Earth Belongs to All is the theme of the times, COP21 World Summit in Paris made climate warming a top issue inviting all in mitigating the occurrence since it is too late to stop it.

We wrote previously how we got earthrise consciousness and earthbound commitment into our vocabulary. I got my students to hum the Cabaret movie song, Tomorrow belongs to me, turning it to a paean on the planet. The lyric goes:

A flower in Death Valley is greeting the sun;
a rainbow in Tinian stands tall.
We gather together to cheer as one:
our islands belong to all.

CHORUS:
All of the goods of the earth,
and all decisions of history,
And all the inventions of humanness
belong to each one through me.

The pole of the bamboo is leafy and green;
the mangoes are ready to fall.
And somewhere our glory awaits unseen:
my home rejoices for all.

The cries of the innocent sound in their pain,
the mighty do vanquish the small.
Let wisdom and caring be free from chain:
my world belongs to all.

A dream of the future is beckoning me,
a vision has captured my soul.
The morning is coming when all will see:
the earth belongs to all.

Oh brother, oh sister, humanity's power,
let children be summoned to call;
come gather together to haste the hour,
the earth belongs to all.

The song after each stanza pitches higher with a young brown shirt straight out of Vienna Boys Choir singing in the movie. We do not cheer the Nazi's Bundestag but we understand European history especially when it ran a global empire, and the axe wielders and musket shooters ran over everyone mid-18th century.

European royals sent minions along the Mediterranean coast in billowing sails, and navigated a globe awakening to national pride and identities. It also told of the Lent story, unfortunately, coached in the slant of European ecclesiology that was heavy on Aryan supremacy.

Somalia banned Merry Holly 2015 as incompatible to the Islamic ethos, and though at the core, we do not find that to be so, we do see the transformation of the Yuletide holidays into the commercialized grabbing of money on consumerism, mocking the innocence and poverty of the babe in the manger. Watching how sleigh bells ring the cashier's till for transactions in stores made it clear that the world had gotten all the Christmas trappings without much of its meaty substance.

Lent 2016 to me is not a veneration of the Christ Jesus story from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the solemnity of the empty tomb. I see it as a metaphor to the earthrise consciousness birthed in '68 over the lunar horizon, and my transformation to earthbound commitment in '72 that provides the content of the season's powerful story of practical hope, incalculable dreams, and very viable visions.

In some quarters, the emotive term of "love" has entered the language of relating to the planet Earth. It is the Passion week to love self, another, and other social others, all rich of imagery, but now, one loves the planet Earth.

Globalis in localis is my formula for earthbound commitment, to operate with a global context in one's local situation. That is immediately Saipan and the CNMI to me for the next 16 years, while relating to Hanguk and Chiao Tian, Nippon post-'53 influences, and Dong Bei of China including Jiangsu north of Shanghai, the Hakka between Guangdong and Fujian, 'Pinas of my birth, and the Austro-Polynesian Indo-Malay cousins of SEA-Pacifica, to communities in villages sensually, emotionally,

See EARTHRISE on Page 15

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An ear for language

By ED STEPHENS JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

On a typical day on Saipan you can hear a half-dozen languages spoken. It's not surprising, then, that many *Saipan Tribune* readers are familiar with the audio-based language courses from a brand called Pimsleur, a name widely recognized among the international set. Pimsleur has been expanding its inventory of courses lately. I contacted the New York headquarters so I could get an update on their activity.

I'll start with this item: On March 8, Pimsleur released a new "level" of its Mandarin Chinese course, Level 5. I know a few people who have been waiting for the release, so, well, it's finally here. I'll take a closer look at it in a future column.

As for the broader picture, Pimleur's basic structure remains unchanged. Each Pimsleur level is built around a core of 30 audio lessons. Each lesson is about 30 minutes long. The levels also include various supplemental learning materials.

Pimsleur has offerings in over 50 languages, but only their five most popular languages have been developed into five levels.

Which languages are the most popular with Pimsleur customers? Spanish gets top status. It's followed by French, Italian, German, and Mandarin. So, despite Asia's long-running economic boom, there's only one Asian language, Mandarin, on the top-five list, and it's running behind four others. In this sense, we can say that East and West remain far apart.

I asked Pimsleur to describe the demographic of its Mandarin course customers. "Our demographic for Mandarin is similar to that for our other languages," I was told, "which ranges from business and pleasure travelers to those learning for career development, to high school and college students, and of course, heritage learners."

Hey, they didn't mention lazy guys in beach chairs. Maybe they lost my file or something.

In addition to individual customers, the company advises me that the Pimsleur method has been used by U.S. government agencies, diplomats, and corporations; the roster includes the military, Department of State, IBM, and Alcoa.

As for the Pimselur method, it is the brainchild of Paul Pimsleur, Ph.D., a linguist who pioneered a technique of using audio lessons to teach foreign languages. Among his professional credits was a stint teaching at UCLA.

The Pimsleur courses are now under the aegis of publishing powerhouse Simon & Schuster, which also is behind the website Pimsleur.com.

Back in the day I used to buy Pimsleur CDs from a few sources, usually book stores. Once I found that I could download courses directly from Pimsleur.com, though, I had all the zeal of a convert. The downloads are in MP3 (for audio) and PDF (for documents) formats. Downloading the courses is far cheaper than ordering the CDs, and, of course, there's no concern about shipping.

Speaking of expenses, I'll mention some costs for the downloaded courses. As of this writing, the typical price for a level is $119.95. Levels that are bundled together shave the per-level price down a little bit; for example, the price for Level 1 through Level 5 in Mandarin is $550. For those who just want to test the waters first, Pimsleur also offers courses in small, bite-sized chunks of five lessons, which are typically priced at $21.95 for the bunch.

There are also free sample lessons available on the website for downloading.

Meanwhile, I'll note that Pimsleur has been adding a computer-based, multi-media dimension to some of its courses. Pimsleur calls this enhanced offering the "Ultimate" line. It's essentially an add-on to the legacy audio lessons, providing flash cards, quizzes, and written material that meshes with some of the audio fare as students follow along and interact.

Pimsleur says that the Unlimited line currently has offerings in Spanish, French, German, Italian, Mandarin, Brazilian Portuguese and Russian. It's also under development for Japanese. The software is sold via a DVD. I don't have any experience with the Ultimate line, but I'd welcome any insights from anyone who has tried it.

Well, as you can see, those Pimsleur wizards in New York have been mighty busy lately. Me, I haven't done much of anything lately, so I'm glad they're taking up the slack.

So I'll just slouch down in my beach chair, spark up a Mandarin lesson on my MP3 player, and ease back into the Pacific flow of things.

Reflection of Holy Week

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

It's Holy Friday! A perfect time to reflect upon the depth of our religious cultural belief passed on down generations of indigenous people since 500 years ago. It's good to focus on certain aspects of our spiritual upbringing to rediscover the mettle of a good person. More so than ever before we need this re-awakening for a stronger community.

In doing so, it's good for parents to focus on teaching their children empathy, humility and care for others. It brings home His words of "do unto others what you want them to do unto you". If this is fully understood then it eliminates other issues as kids begin building stronger and mindful relationships with others.

Going to catechism and church services reconfirms commitment to developing strong spiritual life that ensures disciplined kids and citizenry as they begin taking their place in the community. And one of His lasting teachings is to help the downtrodden or those who really needed help. Doing so confirms your mindfulness that "people are people" no matter their stations in life.

Indeed, I recall the years of walking to catechism every after school and the dreaded lead in the family rosary every night before we hit the books. I never regretted it. I've been able to pass this along to siblings and their children. It gave us the most vital anchor in our life—spiritual anchor—we've since used up to now.

Yes, there were really trying times and often I ask why did He abandoned me. But there's also the story of a kid who asked Him the same query and was told that the missing steps on the sand were times when the Lord picked him up. How humbling!

More so than at any other time, it's good for families to refocus on strong religious or spiritual values and share them with their children. It fosters respect all the way around and makes for caring members of a community, a forte in our tradition that now needs some form of resuscitation.

When you buckle down to meditating the life of the Lord (Easter being His resurrection or when He came to life) ask him to be your lifetime partner. Trust me. It eases all worries and concerns in daily challenges we run into. It grants us time to reset buttons where needed. Happy Easter!

Land purchases: If you recall, Article XII of the NMI Constitution limits landownership to the indigenous people or so-called NMI Descend. Its wisdom is in keeping a very scarce resource within the local families at home.

But legal eagles and their real estate cohorts (locals and stateside) have found themselves a gravy train to feed upon. They make their millions while landowners yawn and quiz how come they've been dealt the opposite end of the stick. There are new owners after the deal is consumed making filthy rick those who engineered a way around a constitutional mandate. And these deals come in different forms.

The "not-so-smart" bunch has used an indigenous name (one that doesn't even exist) in making land purchases. I never knew that one could actually create a non-existent name to make land purchases appear legal. Is it really legal? Or isn't this more one of a fraudulent land transaction fully intended for purposes of personal aggrandizement at the expense of landowners? Isn't this a glaring violation of Article XII?

There's also another group that offer tons of money to landowners whose land have been leased. The deal is simple: We'd give you additional money but upon expiration of the original lease the land belongs to me. Indeed, landowners hurting from the bad swings of a depressed economy would instantly fall for the largess or offer on the table. Hmmm! What a way to violating Article XII.

Then there's the last bunch whose names are used to make purchases the entire property reverting to them upon expiration of the deal. On the surface, it looks luring in terms of intermittent income and eventual ownership. But then, did you ever realize that the shielded owner makes his money in his younger days before he dumps the property on you when you're already old and useless?

I recall a teacher who was struggling all his days giving instructions. Somehow, he hooked himself to a land deal. He was smoking cigars walking all over town before repatriating to the U.S. mainland with millions he's made from indigenous land. Last I checked the landowners are back on food stamps like the old days before the sale of their land while the teacher puffs more cigars!

A Taxpayer: Excuse my ignorance, but isn't it constitutional that the spending of public funds requires an appropriation by the legislature before it is spent? The same provision fails to say that public funds could be approved by legislative delegations. So where did evil geniuses find the leeway to spend $400,000 illegally for the MV *Luta*? Did it come from former Lt. Gov. Ralphy Torres' discretionary fund?

Obviously, there's the glaring constitutional violation of the fund in question. In short, it must be returned to the local coffers forthwith or I'd settle it via a taxpayer's lawsuit. Since when are private businesses so politically connected entitled to an extraordinary loan outside the purview of pertinent constitutional provision mandating legislative appropriation?

Could Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog cite legal authority granting them the right to spend public funds without appropriation? The intent may not be corrupt but the violation of constitutional mandate requiring appropriation of public funds was not only corrupted but violated too! When was the delegation allowed to loan public funds?

Why didn't the Hocog shipping firm seek a loan from a bank or CDA? Wasn't the expropriation of public funds done by employing political power peddling that is illegal?

People: The taxpayers are not as dumb as your nimble mind think them to be!

EARTHRISE

From Page 14

cognitively, and willfully expending their lives.

The Earth belongs to all is, at bottom, the earth belongs to me. In Saipan, we add to the plethora of voices of Hindi-Bengali-Pashtun-Tamil-Sri Lankan along with the European accents from the Nordic Fjords to the Mediterranean villas. The world has shrunk a bit as the major tongues of the world are heard in the Paseo de Marianas. The reality of I belong to the Earth is a living truth.

Singing the earth belongs to all is not a prescription but a description of current reality. We had hoped that China would plan to discontinue coal use earlier than 2030 but the hum of their factories feeds outlets that provide us cheap goodies in stores. Ironically, as Chinese manufacturing gets more expensive, business will take their production elsewhere where other people are eager to be exploited for the extra peseta. The whole planet Earth fuels commercial China! Michael Jackson and his cohorts sang it well more than two decades ago: We are the world! Indeed, the Earth belongs to all.

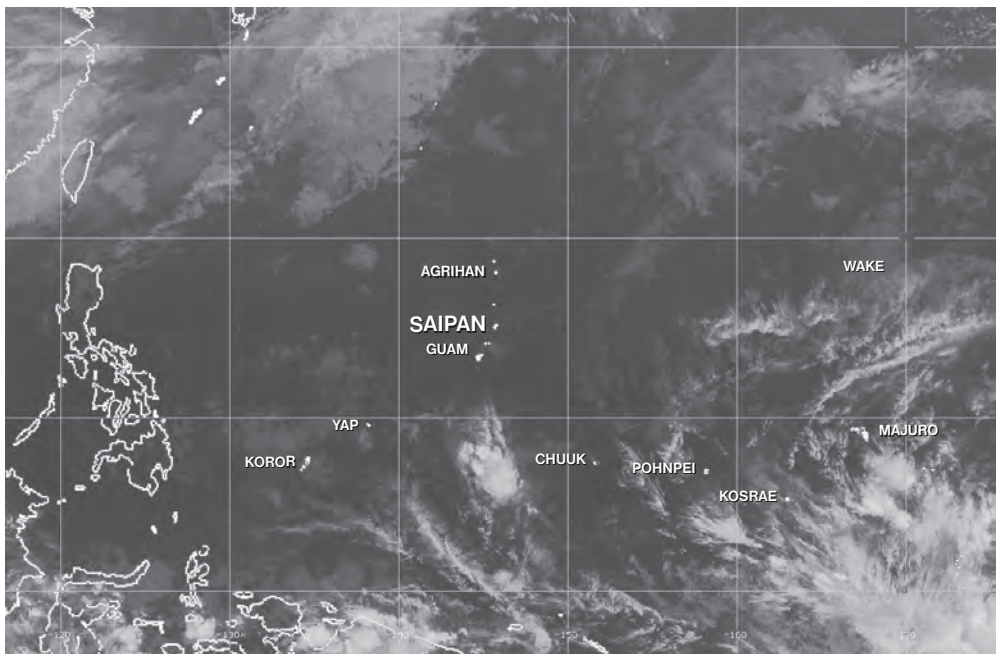
The carbon monoxide on Beach Road and Middle Road is alarming. Care of planet Earth begins in our 5-by-12-mile land mass. Friday is called "Good" for good reason; the love of humanity has flowered into the love of Earth. A moment of silence while the faithful pray!

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated light Showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated light Showers.
▲88º ▼76º	▲88º ▼76º	▲87º ▼75º	▲87º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A low pressure system southeast of japan is causing extensive cloudiness and scattered showers north of a line from 25N142E to 21N135E to 22N130E to beyond 25N. Another low pressure system is centered northeast of the Mariana Islands near 23N151E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are north of 22N from 154E to 161E while scattered showers are within 40 miles of a line from 22N156E to 16N152E. Widely scattered trade-wind showers near Koror are within 60 miles of a line from 9N131E to 7N135E. A trade-wind disturbance southeast of Yap is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 9N144E to 5N148E. A disturbance along the equator southeast of Kosrae is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in patchy areas from southwest of Kosrae across the Marshall Islands and Tarawa mainly south of a line from 3N160E to 7N170E and 6N180. A trade-wind trough near Wake Island is causing scattered showers within 125 miles of a line from 20N167E to 17N171E to 15N177E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼73
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼75
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼75
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲85	▼74
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼75
Majuro	Sunny	▲86	▼75

Around the Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲72	▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲58	▼16
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲57	▼47
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼64
London	Cloudy	▲53	▼43
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲78	▼38
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲94	▼71
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼49
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼70
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼41
Osaka	Sunny	▲48	▼28
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲52	▼38
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲52	▼33
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼34
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲53	▼41
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼52
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲52	▼20
Tokyo	Sunny	▲49	▼27
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼46

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:57 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
8:43 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:17 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
9:14 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:18 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:53 PM	7:16 AM
Saturday	8:40 PM	7:55 AM
Sunday	9:28 PM	8:35 AM
Monday	10:16 PM	9:17 AM
Tuesday	11:06 PM	10:02 AM

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2928/193	6:05pm	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	9:00am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2927	10:00am	5:35pm	3 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	10:20pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2929	10:20pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

BSI extends Village Pride Project to Rota

CONTRIBUETD PHOTO

Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility team extended its Village Pride Project to the island of Rota recently. Photo shows a before and after shot of the District 2-Songsong basketball court.

The ability of Best Sunshine International, Ltd. to provide community support where it is needed has proven remarkably successful, as it continues to enable its Corporate Social Responsibility team to explore more ways to support the islands' needs.

For the exclusive Saipan casino licensee, its CSR team has become an important tool to maximize its campaign to further positive development impact in the Commonwealth.

From March 7 to 11, a team of about 20 BSI-CSR employees successfully repaired and rehabilitated five public facilities on Rota—all for the preservation of the pristine beauty of the island.

"The Rota (Village Pride Project) was a very rewarding project for our team. In a span of three weeks, from the planning to coordination and actual execution of the five improvements project, we did it," CSR director Geri Dela Cruz said.

"Our team worked alongside the Rota Mayor's Office and the administration in extending our VPP to Rota," she added.

At the Rota Mayor's Office, the BSI-CSR team painted the walls and did aesthetic enhancement and grass work.

BSI-CSR also rehabilitated the Guata Beach Park. The group also painted its main pavilion and repaired the park's swing set.

At the Teneto Basketball Court, new backboards, rims, and nets were acquired to replace the worn out equipment. It also conducted massive cleanup and painting.

The two pavilions at the Sinapalo Children's Park were painted and at the same time grass work and power cleanup were conducted.

Similar heavy rehabilitation and cleanup were also initiated at district 2's basketball court which includes power wash of the court, grass work, painting of the backboards, and installation of backboards.

Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig extended his appreciation to the BSI-CSR team.

"We are truly appreciative of [BSI's] commitment and generosity in extending this [Village Pride Project] to Rota," Atalig was quoted as saying. ***(PR)***

Did you know that sea turtles can be disoriented by lights?

When exposed to flashlights, camping lanterns, bonfires, beachfront development lighting, or vehicle lights, adult turtles may crawl in the wrong direction or may become frightened causing them to leave the beach without laying their eggs. When hatchlings emerge from their nests they are instinctually attracted to the brightest horizon (which is normally the moonlight shining on the ocean's surface). However, when there are artificial lights on the beach they mistakenly crawl towards the source putting them at risk to dehydration or predators. Turtles dig the dark, lights out for turtles please!

To report sick, injured, dead or disoriented turtles please call our stranding hotline at 287-8537 (C-TRTLES) or DFW Enforcement at 285-2287

CNMI turtles are a shared community resource connecting our people's past with our people's future. Help us to conserve sea turtles so future generations may be able to enjoy them also.

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Ishida gets full score at Tumon Bay Music Festival

Yonsei Academy's Kate Ishida received a full score from adjudicator Roman Rudnytsky, an internationally well know pianist, during the recent 12th Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam.

Ishida, am the 8th grader from Saipan Community School, wound up bagging a gold medal in the regional music competition. Yonsei Academy students Hans Xu also received gold and YouNa Lee went home with a silver.

Fellow Yonsei Academy students Renee Kiser, Seoni Park, Nan Xie, Eric Kiser, Heechan Kim, Sharon Paek, and Edward Minami also won silver as an ensemble.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Yonsei Academy's Kate Ishida in action during the 12th Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam.

Yonsei Academy students pose after arriving from Guam at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

Yonsei Academy students pose with their piano teacher Young Mi Han.

Ishida said she had to work doubly hard to win a gold medal at the Tumon Bay Music Festival especially since her piece, *Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata 3rd movement*, was a particularly hard piece to play.

"It was a huge jump from last year's piece because it requires much stronger and faster finger works, so I was a bit uneasy at first. I thought 'how can I outperform myself from last year?' To overcome myself, I practiced as much as I could and I'm glad I took this challenge," she said.

Ishida said she's been joining the Tumon Bay Music Festival for the past three years, and every year she competes, she learns something new.

"For me, it's the most exciting time of the year (other than Christmas,) getting to meet talented musicians at the festival."

She also took time to extend her gratitude to those who contributed to her and the team's success at the Tumon Bay Music Festival.

"I'd like to thank the Kristo Rai Church, Townhouse, and Agape Christian School for giving the team an opportunity to hold rehearsals and concerts before the competition. It really boosted up our confidence, getting rid of our stage fright. I'd also like to thank my team for all the support, and my parents who never ceased to give me support. And of course, Ms. Young Mi Han, my piano teacher, I would have never gotten this far without her. She deserves the medal," she said

Meanwhile, Xu said his first time to participate in the Tumon Bay Music Festival was a very good experience for him.

"The music piece I played was *Sonatine Op. 88 No. 3*. The composer was Friedrich Kuhlau. This music piece has many difficulties because it is very fast. It can change tempo and feeling can change suddenly. I want to thank my teacher and my parents for teaching and helping me learn piano and making me participate in the Tumon Bay Music Festival. I was not expecting gold because this is my first time to participate. I feel very happy to get gold. It was very hard to prepare because of Typhoon Soudelor and that there was no water or electricity. But I was still able to get gold," he said.

YouNa Lee said she's very glad that she was able to participate in this year's Tumon Bay Music Festival despite all the challenges brought by Typhoon Soudelor in August last year.

"Last year in August, Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan, and my house did not make it through the strong winds, my piano being one of the few valuable things that did not make it. It became totally unplayable, making it really difficult to practice my piece for Guam. Fortunately, my teacher, Ms. Young Mi Han, was very considerate of my situation, and she allowed me to practice at her place in every spare time that I got. Every hour that I had I would drive up to her house to practice my piece."

Lee said each year, her piece would get harder with the level of difficulty, but this recent piece required flexibility and dexterity, so she was very worried that she would not have enough time to practice.

"I was also worried with the fact that the competition was to be held in a different location that the previous years. Thankfully, my teacher reassured me that the piano would be familiar because of all the rehearsals that we have had while on Saipan. Because of all her effort and hard work to rehearse us, I believe that I was able to understand the music and make it into my own. I was blessed to receive a silver medal for my performance, and I am content with my performance. I am very blessed to be able to participate in the competition during my final year in high school. I am also blessed with the greatest teacher with the biggest heart, Ms. Young Mi Han," she said.

Since 2009, Yonsei Academy students have visited the Commonwealth Health Center to play music for the patients every Sunday at 2:30pm.

Also, they have been fundraising and donating their funds collected during the concerts to the CNMI Public School System in 2012, for Philippines Typhoon victims in 2014, and for Chuukese children in 2015.

Yonsei Academy's next concert will be on May this year and the music school is planning to donate the funds raised from the concert back to CHC. About 60 of the music school's students will take part in the concert. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-16-IFB-005

Repair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Laboratory Building

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Repair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Laboratory Building,** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **March 11, 2016** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **March 30, 2016 , 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife Conference Room, Lower Base, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **April 01, 2016** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-16-IFB-004"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, April 15, 2016.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, April 15, 2016**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 15, 2016** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **April 25, 2016**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, April 27, 2016**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on April 15, 2016**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty **(120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred Fifty (US$150.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ **JAMES A. ADA**
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ **RICHARD B. SEMAN**
Secretary of Department of Land and Natural Resources

Nominees for 2016 Businesswoman of the Year out

MAITE, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* are pleased to announce the nominees for the 2016 Businesswoman of the Year Maga'håga award.

■ Jessica M. Barrett, president, Barrett Enterprises Inc., which does business as Barrett Plumbing

■ Eleanor T. Cabrera, president, Transcends LLC, which does business as, Naked Fish Bar & Grill

■ Wendi S. Herring, general manager, Asia Pacific Hotels Inc., which does business as Kanoa Resort Saipan

■ Dr. Jitka Lom, president and medical director, ExpressCare Health and Skin Center Inc.

■ Polly D. Masga, general manager, Marianas Medical Center

■ Donna R. Muña Quinata, senior vice president, Guam AutoSpot

■ Sophia Chu Wigsten, general manager, Hyatt Regency Guam

The Maga'håga award will be presented to one winner at the Businesswoman of the Year Gala on Saturday, April 30 at the Hyatt Regency Guam in conjunction with the release of the *Guam Business Magazine* September–October issue, which will feature a commissioned photo of the recipient on its cover.

In its 11th year, the award program recognizes businesswomen in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands who have made significant contributions to their industries and have demonstrated a strong commitment to their community.

Through proceeds from the gala, the program also funds scholarships for students pursuing business and related degrees at the University of Guam, Guam Community College and Northern Marianas College.

Tickets for the gala may be purchased by contacting Mindy Sanchez at mindisan@gmail.com or (671) 929-5343.

The winner will join the previous Businesswoman of the Year Maga'håga award recipients, which are as follows: Joann G. Camacho, director of market development of DFS Guam (2015); Shirley Ann T. Sablan, executive vice president and general manager of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. (2014); F. Marie Calvo-Monge, chief operating officer and executive producer of Pacific Telestations (2013); Mary P. Rhodes, president of the Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association and president of MARQ Consulting Services (2012); Joyce Q. Crisostomo, executive director of Cars Plus and president of Payless Car Rental (2011); Anna Wang Kao, founder and president of Genghis Khan Furniture Co. (2010); Lorraine S. Okada, president of Okada Managing Consulting Services (2009); Julienne Rose Perez Duenas, physical therapist, owner and clinical director of Sports, Orthopedic and Active Rehabilitation Inc. (2008); Christine Won Pat Baleto, general manager of Market Wholesale Distributors (2007); and Katherine C. Sgro, executive vice president and chairwoman of the board for Pay-Less Markets Inc. (2006).

For more information, contact Joy White, assistant editor of *Guam Business Magazine*, at (671) 649-0883 ext. 125 or assist_editor@glimpsesofguam.com, or Barbie Jane Agahan, assistant advertising manager of First Hawaiian Bank at (671) 475-7908 or bagahan@fhb.com. ***(PR)***

Seedlings to boost post-Winston food security

NADI, Fiji—A total of 43,000 fruit and vegetable seedlings were handed over to Fiji's Ministry of Agriculture by the European Union Ambassador to the Pacific, H.E. Andrew Jacobs, today in Nadi, to boost the country's recovery following tropical cyclone Winston.

The seedlings were propagated as part of a joint development initiative between the EU and the Pacific Community (SPC), called Improving Key Services to Agriculture (IKSA).

"This project is the first of several EU-SPC joint initiatives to provide direct support to communities affected by tropical cyclone Winston, helping them to meet their food security needs in the short term," Ambassador Jacobs said, as he handed over the seedlings to the Ministry of Agriculture's Permanent Secretary, Uraia Waibuta.

He added that, "These seedlings consist of a mixture of cabbages, egg plants, tomatoes, chilies, papayas and so forth. In total it is close 450,000 vegetable and fruit seedlings that will be made available in the next few months. This will enable communities to access fresh and nutritious crops from the next few weeks".

The IKSA project is supporting new opportunities in horticultural and sugar markets, through research and by assisting farmers to venture into horticultural crops.

"We're committed to supporting the interests and well-being of our members, and in this case for Fiji and its farming communities, we're standing by them in their hour of need," the Pacific Community Deputy Director-General Dr. Audrey Aumua, said.

"Our technical and scientific staff are assisting the Fiji government in various response groups, such as national disaster management coordination, food security and livelihoods, energy, health and nutrition, spatial data, water and sanitation, and maritime transportation," Dr Aumua said.

The seedlings from the IKSA project complement the supply of seeds and crop cuttings provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and other partners involved in the recovery efforts in the agriculture sector.

Last week, another SPC-EU initiative, Reforest Fiji, made 250,000 tree seedlings available from its nurseries to be distributed amongst thousands of rural farming households in the sugar cane belt region with the long term aim of rehabilitating degraded landscapes and enhancing watershed areas. ***(PR)***

Church 360, Kagman Community Church set Easter Worship Services

Church 360 and Kagman Community Church will hold their Easter Worship Service at 10:15am at Church 360 and 6pm at Kagman Community Church. The service will include drama, scripture readings, and music. The public is welcome to attend. Kagman Community Church will also have a potluck at 5pm preceding the Easter Service. ***(PR)***

BG Investment and Insurance Services, Inc. opens

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank-Guam Holding Company announces the opening of BG Investment and Insurances Services, Inc. The subsidiary, housed at the Bank of Guam Headquarters building, is located on the 9th floor, and can be contacted at (671) 472-5490.

For additional information, please contact Cora Lujan at (671) 472-5490. ***(PR)***

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INVITATION FOR BID

AMENDMENT #01 - NMHC IFB 2016-007
PURCHASE OF WILD LAND FIRE TRUCK
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (DFEMS) - TINIAN

This Ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD Funds.

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairman of the Board is soliciting competitive sealed bids from interested vendors for the purchase of Wild Land Fire Truck for the Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS) - Tinian.

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular business hours, Monday thru Friday except CNMI Holidays beginning **Friday, February 19, 2016.**

Sealed bids must be marked "NMHC IFB 2016-007". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill (former EMO Office), Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, no later than **10:30 a.m., local time, Thursday, March 31, 2016.**

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:30 a.m. local time Thursday, March 31, 2016, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than Thursday, March 31, 2016, **AND** must be received no later than Monday, April 11, 2016. **Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.**

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement of Supply, Capitol Hill (former EMO), Saipan, at 10:00 a.m., local time Tuesday, April 12, 2016. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 11:00 a.m. local time on **Thursday, March 31, 2016.**

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC further notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE) are afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability or national origin.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All bids will become the property of the Government.

For more information, contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Procurement Officer, or Mr. Jacob J. Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ **Jesse S. Palacios**
Corporate Director

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan**
Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for reconditioning of the perimeter fence and widening of Charlie Dock service gate at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-SS-002-15 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Port of Saipan Reconditioning of the Perimeter Fence/Widening of Charlie Service Gate, Project No. CPA-SS-002-15 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 p.m. on FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to submit one original and two copies of its bid proposal.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to Construction of the **PERIMETER FENCE RECONDITIONING/WIDENING OF CHARLIE SERVICE GATE PROJECT.** The Work involves removing the entire existing chain-link fabric and all accessories and replacing them with new chain-link fabric and accessories. It also includes the removal of the existing Charlie gate and replacing it with a new wider sliding gate all in accordance with the plans and specifications, rules and regulations of all governing agencies. The project is located at the Saipan Seaport, Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

The Project is being financed by funds from Port Security Grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be one hundred fifty (150) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of three hundred fifty dollars ($350.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Seaport Conference Room, George A. Fleming Office Building, Port of Saipan, at **10:00 a.m., Monday, MARCH 28, 2016,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-25 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government-wide Debarment and Suspension and Government-wide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

Date: March 17, 2016

Business

History points to limited economic pain from Belgium attacks

LONDON (AP)—Financial markets barely registered this week's attacks in Brussels, which killed more than 30 people, a sign that investors think the economic impact on Belgium and across Europe as a whole will be limited. Recent history suggests they may be right.

The experience of terror attacks in Europe in the past decade have helped the business community keep their cool in the face of horrors like this week's deadly bombings at the Brussels airport and subway.

Firms have gotten better in their responses. From identifying personnel, to clearing offices or sanctioning remote working, even at recovery sites, they manage to contain the disruption. The people have shown a willingness to get back to life as usual as soon as they can, whether it be shopping, boarding a train or having a meal. And governments learn to put in place security measures they hope will deter more attacks.

"While these events remain rare, they're now sadly frequent enough for markets to have plenty of experience in how business and society reacts—and almost always they've proven to be resilient, so the fears of prolonged disruption to the key areas of the economy have faded," said David Lea, senior Europe analyst at Control Risks, an international consultancy that advises firms on how to manage risks.

That realization has become apparent in the reaction in financial markets. Whereas markets were volatile after mass-casualty bombings in Madrid in 2004 and London in 2005, they were not jolted much by the two attacks in Paris last year. That may be partly due to digital media, which helps traders understand more quickly the scale of an attack, but also the understanding that daily life resumes relatively quickly.

"Individual? Terror attacks usually do not change underlying economic trends," said Holger Schmieding, an economist at Berenberg Bank. "That at least was the clear lesson of the terror attacks on Madrid and London in 2004 and 2005."

While Belgium has seen an increase in home-grown Islamic extremists over the past few years, it has not seen attacks on Tuesday's scale. It's on a sharp learning curve, certainly in comparison with the likes of France which has faced various terrorist threats over the years, including Algerian nationalists in the 1950s and 1960s, and Britain, which endured decades of attacks from Irish republicans.

Why a future Apple-FBI case may go very differently

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Although it fiercely opposes the FBI's demand for help unlocking a San Bernardino shooter's encrypted iPhone, Apple has never argued that it simply can't do what the government wants. That might not be true for long.

At the moment, the San Bernardino case is on hold while the FBI evaluates an alternative method of getting into that phone. But experts say it's almost certain that Apple and other tech companies will keep increasing the security of their products, making it harder or perhaps even impossible for them to answer government demands for customer data.

"If I were them, I would use any means possible to avoid having to answer these information requests," said Anna Lysyanskaya, a computer scientist and cryptography expert at Brown University. "It's bad for their business, and not just in the United States but in other countries where law enforcement cannot be trusted to follow the law."

Smartphones and Internet services increasingly store a vast trove of personal information—everything from messages and photos to banking details to records of your movements. Apple won't comment on specific future plans, although it says it's constantly increasing security to protect that data from hackers and criminals. That's why, for example, its latest mobile operating system won't let anyone read files on an encrypted iPhone without knowing the user's passcode.

Its intent, Apple says, isn't to foil legitimate government investigations, but to protect its users against criminal hacking. In the San Bernardino case, the FBI wanted Apple to create a software tool that would override a "self-destruct" security feature that would activate after too many incorrect passcode attempts. Apple argued that creating such a tool would make all iPhones more vulnerable.

March is a good month to find deals on Japanese cars

DETROIT (AP)—If you're in the market for a Japanese car, March is a good time to buy.

Unlike U.S., European and Korean automakers, which end their financial year on Dec. 31, Japanese companies such as Toyota Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co. close their books on March 31. In order to hit their annual sales targets, Japanese automakers usually ramp up the promotions and deals in March.

Honda's "Dream Garage" ads are currently running between college basketball games. Lexus will make your first month's lease payment. Nissan is promising bonus cash. Subaru's "Love Spring" sale promises zero-percent financing on Impreza and Legacy sedans. Toyota is offering $1,000 cash on a 2016 Corolla.

"March tends to be a strong sales month for the auto industry, but is particularly strong for the Japanese makes as shoppers flock to these sales," says Jeremy Acevedo, an analyst with the car buying site Edmunds.com.

Among the current deals:

■ The 2016 Toyota Camry SE is currently selling for as much as 11 percent off the manufacturer's suggested retail price, or MSRP, according to car buying site TrueCar.com. That's a savings of $2,885. Deals for the Camry include $500 cash plus zero-percent financing for up to 60 months.

■ Honda is offering the 2016 Civic compact car for $179 per month with a 36-month lease. In February, Honda was offering the Civic for the same monthly price but for a longer term of 39 months. That's a difference of $537.

■ Subaru will lease you a 2016 Outback SUV for $269 a month for 36 months. In February, a 36-month lease was $289 per month. That's a savings of $720 over three years.

Japanese automakers spend an average of $1,592 on incentives per vehicle in March, says auto analyst and industry consultant Jesse Toprak, who bases his numbers on data from 2012 to the present. They spend a little more in August and September, when the model year ends and they want to clear the way for new models. But Toprak says there are fewer vehicles available then, so buyers are better off shopping in March.

Nation

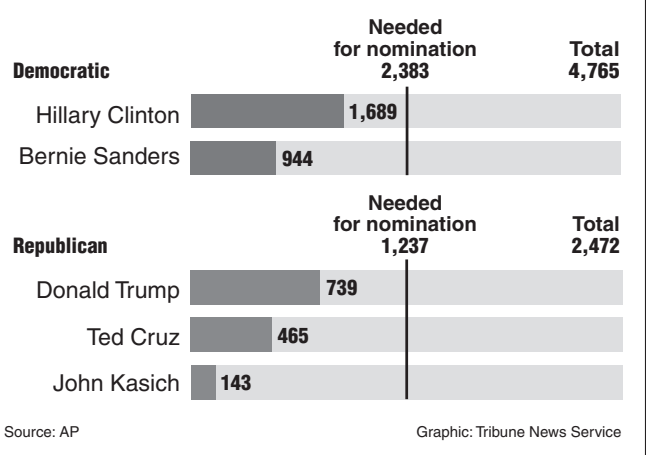
Cruz emboldened, but needs a near miracle to catch Trump

WAUWATOSA, Wis. (AP)—While Ted Cruz decried "gutter politics" against him, former Republican presidential contenders gave him a boost Wednesday, casting the Texas senator as the party's last best chance to stop Donald Trump. The long and bitter 2016 campaign shifted to a new Midwestern battleground.

Ahead of Wisconsin's April 5 primary, Gov. Scott Walker, who dropped out of the race last fall, declared that only Cruz can catch Trump as time runs short in the primary season. And former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush gave Cruz his endorsement—a step perhaps designed to hurt Trump more than help the unpopular Texas senator.

"For the sake of our party and country, we must move to overcome the divisiveness and vulgarity Donald Trump has brought into the political arena," said Bush, who was knocked out of the 2016 contest last month. "To win, Republicans need to make this election about proposing solutions to the many challenges we face, and I believe that we should vote for Ted as he will do just that."

Indeed, as Democrat Hillary Clinton addressed rising national security concerns, the Republican contest was hit again by personal insults—this time involving the candidates' families. Cruz slammed Trump during an appearance in the front-runner's hometown for making a vague threat on Twitter the night before to "spill the beans" on Cruz's wife.



Effort in 3 US cities to combat extremism off to slow start

BOSTON (AP)—A federally funded effort in Boston, Los Angeles and Minneapolis to combat extremist recruitment has been slow to start since it was announced a year and a half ago.

Few local programs have been directly created by the "Countering Violent Extremism" pilot initiative, with officials in those cities just starting to distribute more than $500,000 in Department of Justice grant money to jumpstart new local efforts.

The furthest along appears to be Minneapolis, where officials point to at least one newly created but still not operational effort: a privately financed mentorship program working with youth in the city's sizeable Somali community, which has produced extremist recruits over the years.

Six other organizations there also recently received $300,000 in federal and private money to develop programs addressing mental health, employment and parenting issues among the Somali community and other refugee populations.

Boston and Los Angeles, in contrast, appear to be months away from distributing their share of the money—if at all.

"It's a little frustrating," says Los Angeles Deputy Police Chief Michael Downing, whose department had been looking forward to federal support to enhance long-standing efforts that include outreach to help prevent radicalization. "We haven't seen a dime. We're clearly at the point where we want to put our money where our mouth is."

Recent attacks—including in Paris in November, San Bernardino, California, in December and Brussels on Tuesday—make the local programs all the more critical, said Robert Trestan, who has been involved with the Boston pilot as regional director for the Anti-Defamation League, which fights anti-Semitism.

ACROSS THE NATION

Cross-border tunnel extends length of 4 football fields

SAN DIEGO (AP)—U.S. authorities on Wednesday seized a cross-border tunnel that ran the length of four football fields from a restaurant in Mexicali, Mexico, to a newly built house in Calexico, California, following an investigation that netted more than a ton of marijuana and resulted in four arrests. The tunnel was the 12th completed secret passage that U.S. authorities have discovered along California's border with Mexico since 2006. They have found more than 75 along the entire U.S.-Mexico border in the last five years, mostly in California and Arizona and many of them incomplete. Drug traffickers allegedly purchased the Calexico property in April for $240,000 and finished building a three-bedroom house on the parcel for $86,000 by December. Prosecutors say the first tunnel shipment occurred Feb. 28, leading to the seizure of 1,350 pounds of marijuana in Los Angeles.

North Carolina reins in local governments, transgender rule

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—North Carolina legislators decided to rein in local governments by approving a bill Wednesday that prevents cities and counties from passing their own anti-discrimination rules. Gov. Pat McCrory later signed the legislation, which dealt a blow to the LGBT movement after success with protections in cities across the country. The Republican-controlled General Assembly took action after Charlotte city leaders last month approved a broad anti-discrimination measure. Critics focused on language in the ordinance that allowed transgender people to use the restroom aligned with their gender identity. McCrory, who was the mayor of Charlotte for 14 years and had criticized the local ordinance, signed the legislation Wednesday night that he said was "passed by a bipartisan majority to stop this breach of basic privacy and etiquette."

Asia

Australia: Mozambique debris 'highly likely' from Flight 370

SYDNEY (AP)—Two pieces of debris recently discovered along the coast of Mozambique are "highly likely" to have come from missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, Australian and Malaysian officials said Thursday.

An analysis of the parts by an international investigation team showed both pieces are consistent with panels from a Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 aircraft, Transport Minister Darren Chester said in a statement.

"The analysis has concluded the debris is almost certainly from MH370," Chester said.

The dimensions, materials and construction of both parts conform to those of a 777, and the paint and stenciling on both parts match those used by Malaysia Airlines, Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai said in a separate statement.

The discovery of the two pieces provides another piece of the puzzle into the plane's fate, and bolsters authorities' assertion that the plane went down somewhere in the Indian Ocean. But whether the debris can provide any clues into exactly what happened to the aircraft and why is uncertain.

AP

In this Monday, March 21, 2016, a part of a plane is photographed in Mossel Bay, near Cape Town, South Africa.

Flight 370 disappeared on March 8, 2014, with 239 people on board and is believed to have crashed somewhere in a remote stretch of the southern Indian Ocean about 6,000 kilometers (3,700 miles) east of Mozambique. Authorities had predicted that any debris from the plane that isn't on the ocean floor would eventually be carried by currents to the east coast of Africa.

Until now, the only other confirmed piece of debris from the Boeing 777 was a wing part that washed ashore on the French Indian Ocean island of Reunion last year.

Given the vast distances involved, the variability of winds and the time that has elapsed, it is impossible for experts to retrace the parts' path back to where they first entered the water. And chances the debris itself could offer any fresh clues into precisely where the plane crashed are slim.

Amnesty to Suu Kyi govt: Break cycle of repression

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Amnesty International on Thursday urged Aung San Suu Kyi and her party's new government to release all political prisoners when they take office next week, saying it is a historic opportunity for Myanmar to break away from the repression of the former junta rule.

"Myanmar's legal framework reads like a textbook of repression, and authorities have in recent years increasingly used it to silence dissent," Champa Patel, Amnesty International's Southeast Asia director, told reporters.

The report, based on interviews with human rights defenders, activists, lawyers, and prisoners of conscience and their families, documents the widespread crackdown on political opponents in the past two years. It said the government has relied on draconian laws and other intimidating tactics to silence dissent.

Suu Kyi led her National League for Democracy party to a historic win in the Nov. 8 elections, and will replace a nominally-civilian, military-backed government that has been in power since 2011. Before that, Myanmar was ruled by the military since 1962.

During that time, the junta kept Suu Kyi under house arrest for several years, and jailed hundreds of her supporters and other critics. While the government has released many such detainees in batches over the years, some remain in jails.

Amnesty International says it knows of almost 100 political prisoners still behind bars, while hundreds of other activists are in detention or waiting for their trials to end.

New Zealand will find out Thursday whether flag will change

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealanders will find out Thursday whether they will keep the British Union Jack on their flag or replace it with a silver fern after more than 2 million people voted in a nationwide ballot.

Voters were asked to choose between their current flag, which has been the national symbol since 1902, and a new design that was winnowed from more than 10,000 entries submitted by the public.

Those entries ranged from the serious to the silly, like one that featured a kiwi bird shooting a green laser beam from its eye. In the end, the winning design was a hybrid of the old and new, keeping the Southern Cross star formation while replacing the British symbol with a native plant.

But after spending millions of dollars and months on the process, opinion polls indicate the South Pacific nation will choose to stick with its current flag. Proponents for the new design haven't given up hope, however, saying they have momentum on their side.

"It's going to be close," said Lewis Holden, chairman of a campaign for change. "I'd love to see it get across the line."

Holden said he believed a majority of voters favored changing the flag but not all of them had rallied behind the new design.

Those advocating change say the current flag is a relic of the nation's colonial past and too similar to Australia's flag. Those favoring the status quo say the new design is uninspiring or an attempt by Prime Minister John Key to create a legacy.

Opponents to change include the Returned and Services Association, which represents war veterans. It says New Zealand soldiers fought and died under the current flag and it shouldn't be changed.

Organizers say that deciding the issue by popular vote represents a world first, with other countries changing flags by revolution, decree or legislation.

World

Officials: Brussels bombers may have rushed attack

BRUSSELS (AP)—As police hunted for the surviving Brussels bomber, evidence mounted Wednesday that the same Islamic State cell carried out the attacks in both Paris and Brussels, and that the militants may have launched this week's slaughter in haste because they feared authorities were closing in on them.

On a day of mourning across Belgium following Tuesday's bombings of the Brussels airport and subway that killed 31 people and wounded more than 270, new information emerged about the four attackers:

■ European security officials said one of the suicide bombers was Najim Laachraoui, a Moroccan-born Belgian whom police have hunted as the suspected bombmaker in the Nov. 13 attacks on Paris by the Islamic State that killed 130 people.

■ The other two suicide bombers were Belgian-born brothers, Ibrahim El Bakraoui, and his younger brother, Khalid, both known to the police as common criminals, not anti-Western radicals.

■ Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Ibrahim El Bakraoui was caught in June 2015 near Turkey's border with Syria and deported, at his own request, to the Netherlands, with Ankara warning Dutch and Belgian officials that he was a "foreign terrorist fighter." But other Turkish officials said he was released from Dutch custody due to lack of evidence of involvement in extremism.

Details of the investigation from chief prosecutor Frederic Van Leeuw pointed to a rising sense of panic among the three bombers who blew themselves up. An unidentified fourth man who was shown in airport video surveillance footage remains at large after Van Leeuw said his suitcase bomb failed to detonate properly. Authorities say he was the man in a light jacket and hat on the far right of the video footage.

Van Leeuw said the bomb did partially explode after police had already evacuated the terminal, injuring nobody.

The prosecutor said a laptop seized from a garbage can on a street outside the brothers' last known address contained a message purportedly from Ibrahim El Bakraoui that indicated he was expecting to be arrested imminently following Friday's capture in Brussels of the suspected ringleader of the Paris attacks, Salah Abdeslam.

"I don't know what to do, I'm in a hurry, people are looking for me everywhere," Van Leeuw quoted the message as saying. "If I give myself up I'll end up in a cell next to him,"—an apparent reference to the just-arrested Abdeslam.

Police were drawn to the brothers' apartment Tuesday night thanks to a tip from a taxi driver who had unwittingly delivered them to the airport, Van Leeuw said. Inside the northeast Brussels residence they found an apparent bomb-making factory, including 15 kilograms (33 pounds) of homemade explosives and nails for use as shrapnel.

Neighbors told The Associated Press they had no idea of the brothers' activities and barely saw them until the taxi collected them and their visibly heavy bags Tuesday morning.

One neighbor, who was willing to give only his first name of Erdine, said he was about to drive his son to school when he saw the two men carrying their bags out of the building.

"The taxi driver tried to get the luggage. And the other guy reached for it like he was saying: No, I'll take it," the neighbor said.

At the core of the Belgian investigation is a photo taken from the airport's surveillance cameras showing three attackers walking side by side as they push luggage carts. Van Leeuw said the middle figure has been identified as Ibrahim El Bakraoui, while the two men flanking him remained unidentified.

But two security officials told the AP that Laachraoui's DNA was verified as that of one of Tuesday's suicide bombers after samples were taken from remains found at the airport. One European official and one French police official spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to divulge details of the Belgian investigation. Both officials were briefed on the investigation.

Belgian officials have not publicly linked any of the remains to Laachraoui; nor have they said he was involved in the Brussels attack.

Since prosecutors said Khalid El Bakraoui was killed in the subway bombing, that would make Laachraoui the remaining unidentified figure on the far left of the airport video footage.

Belgian authorities have been looking for Laachraoui since last week, suspecting him of being an accomplice to Abdeslam, who was arrested Friday in the Brussels neighborhood where he grew up.

Laachraoui is believed to have made the suicide vests used in Paris, a French police official told the AP, adding that Laachraoui's DNA was found on all of the vests as well as in a Brussels apartment where they were made. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation. Seven of the Paris attackers blew themselves up or were slain by police.

French and Belgian authorities have said the network behind the Paris attacks was much larger than initially thought - and developments this week suggest the same group could have staged the violence both in Paris and Brussels.

"It's the same team," said a French senator, Nathalie Goulet, who is co-leader of a parliamentary commission on studying jihadi networks.

She said Abdeslam should have had little difficulty organizing more recruits following his November escape from France.

"He probably had 10 more at hand who would be ready to do the same thing tomorrow morning," she said, describing his Brussels acolytes as "like a scout troop ... a troop of death."

A Belgian official working on the investigation told AP it is a "plausible hypothesis" that Abdeslam was helping to organize the Brussels attack. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the investigation.

The comments by the Turkish president that Ibrahim El Bakraoui was determined by his country to be a militant fighter and then deported to Europe could raise embarrassing questions for Western security officials.

But a Turkish official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly said the bomber was allowed to go free because Belgian authorities could not establish any ties to extremism.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Library book overdue nearly 50 years returned to Ohio school

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—A library book overdue by nearly 50 years has been returned to a university library in southwest Ohio. The University of Dayton says a former student who borrowed the "History of the Crusades" in 1967 has sent it back with an apology for the late return. The university says James Phillips, of Minnesota, apparently checked out the book as a freshman before leaving school to join the U.S. Marines. Phillips says the book and other belongings must have been gathered from his dormitory room and sent to his parents' house where they remained until his parents' died. Phillips recently found the book in a box of belongings forwarded to him by his brother. University officials say they won't be charging Phillips the late fee that would have been about $350.

Police: NY man led cops on chase that ended at ham raffle

AVON, N.Y. (AP)—Authorities say a western New York man led police on a car chase that ended when he attempted to elude officers by ducking into a fire hall where a ham raffle was being held. The Livingston County Sheriff's Office says deputies tried to pull over 31-year-old John Palermo of Rochester as he drove on Interstate 390 on Saturday night. Police say Palermo exited the highway and drove into Avon (AY'-vahn), 20 miles south of Rochester. Palermo sped across several lawns before stopping at the East Avon fire hall and running inside. He tried to blend in with the crowd attending a ham raffle, but an off-duty deputy who's also a volunteer firefighter helped capture him. Palermo was charged with driving while ability impaired by drugs and fleeing from police. It couldn't be determined if he has a lawyer.

Elephant dung at Prague Zoo morphs into a new form: paper

PRAGUE (AP)—At first, their elephant dung was sold to gardeners as fertilizer. Now Prague Zoo has come up with a new use for it: making paper. The zoo has joined forces with the country's famed hand paper mill in Velke Losiny to process the manure to be used in traditional paper-making techniques. Petr Foucek, a director from Velke Losiny, says the 420-year-old mill has made paper from all sorts of materials but elephant dung "is something new for us." Visitors will be able to make their own paper at a new zoo facility starting Friday. The announcement comes almost five years after the zoo began selling elephant dung in 1-kilogram (2.2-pound) containers. The brains behind the project is zoo director Miroslav Bobek, whose surname literally means "dung" in Czech.

DIY mayor repaints, buys cleaning machine for his new office

HAZLETON, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania mayor took it upon himself to spruce up his office before he was sworn in. The Standard-Speaker says Hazleton Mayor Jeff Cusat used his own money and elbow grease to paint his office earlier this year. He also bought a carpet-cleaning machine. Now, he's using money from a nonprofit fund he created to spruce up the paint in the hallways at City Hall. Once that's finished, the mayor is hoping the Greater Hazelton Historical Society and the Hazleton Art League will help create displays to spruce up the hallways. Hazleton is about 100 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

1st Death Anniversary
We thought of you today, but that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday and days before too. We think of you in silence, we often speak your name. All we have are memories and your picture in a frame. Your memory is a keepsake from which we'll never part. God has you in His arms, we have you in our hearts.
In Loving Memory of
†IGNACIO
CAMACHO BORJA
Please join us in prayers as we remember our beloved on the 1st Anniversary of his life in Heaven.
Prayer of the Holy Rosary is being said nightly at 7pm at his residence in As Teo, Santa Lourdes. On the final day, Tuesday, March 29th, the lisayo will be said at 12pm at his residence and the mass will be celebrated at 6pm, at Santa Soledad Church. Following the mass, dinner will be served at the family residence in As Teo.
Your presence, thoughts, and most especially prayers are sincerely appreciated.
May God's grace and blessings be upon us now and always.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank you.
From Jacinta Aldan Borja and Children

Science & Technology

The consumer tablet is dying; long live the business tablet

NEW YORK (AP)—Tablets may never again be the consumer sensation they once were, but they are finding new life among professionals.

Apple took aim at that market in announcing a second iPad Pro model this week. Samsung started selling the Windows-based Galaxy TabPro S last week, while Microsoft doubled down on its Surface tablet business last fall with Surface Book, a laptop whose keyboard pops off to leave behind a tablet. Google has its own using Android, the Pixel C.

Unlike early models, these tablets are meant to be used with a physical keyboard and a stylus. That makes them appealing to people looking to get stuff done, whether that's typing a report or drawing on a graphics app.

"It's no secret the tablet business has slowed down overall except in places where there's productivity," says Gary Riding, a senior vice president for mobile computing marketing at Samsung. ("Productivity," in this case, being jargon for work as opposed to play.)

These new devices also have higher price tags. Many sell for almost $1,000, or even more with accessories. Companies market them as PC replacements rather than devices for watching video, reading books and playing games - that is, things you can already do with your phone.

AP

In this Monday, March 21, 2016, file photo, members of the media and invited guests take a look at the new iPad Pro during an event at Apple headquarters in Cupertino, Calif.

The Surface Pro 3 is "much thinner than a laptop, and when you have the case with the keyboard, it's essentially a laptop," says Ryan Hastman, who now leaves his Mac laptop behind while traveling to raise money for the University of Alberta in Canada.

Tablet shipments fell 10 percent to 207 million worldwide last year and are projected to fall another 6 percent this year, according to IDC. But one subset—tablets with detachable keyboards—more than doubled to 17 million last year. It's projected to grow to 64 million in 2020 and represent 30 percent of the overall tablet market, rather than 8 percent now.

"It's not all doom and gloom," IDC analyst Jitesh Ubrani says. "Microsoft's done a very good job at marketing detachables. Everyone's now jumping on that bandwagon."

In a sense, Apple was a victim of its own success following the iPad's debut in 2010. Tablets took off with consumers who found them appealing replacements for home laptops. But people haven't replaced them as often as phones. And as phones got bigger, some people began wondering whether they needed a tablet at all.

Enter Microsoft, long the king of "productivity" software, which in 2012 designed a tablet that ran Windows and targeted professionals. The Microsoft Surface didn't have the fun apps that iPads and Android tablets had, but it had Word, Excel and other Office apps long before entertainment-oriented devices did. It also has a USB port and other features missing in most tablets.

It took Microsoft two years to get it right, though. The Pro 3 in 2014 was the first Surface with a fully adjustable kickstand that mimicked the flexibility of laptop screens. And last fall's models were the first Surface devices with Windows 10, which mirrored traditional PCs much more than the Windows 8 it replaced.

"Everyone wants a tablet, and everyone needs a laptop," says Brian Hall, Microsoft's general manager for Surface. "You can have an approach that says people need to buy one of each, or you can have an approach that says there's a happy medium."

The holiday quarter was the best yet for Surface, with revenue increasing 29 percent to $1.35 billion.

But don't count Apple out. IDC estimates that Apple sold more than 2 million iPad Pros in the holiday quarter when it launched, compared with 1.6 million units for Surface. Apple's advantage: apps designed from the start for touch screens and battery conservation, rather than ones adapted from the mouse-and-keyboard world of plugged-in Windows PCs.

Now, Apple is giving customers additional choice—a 9.7-inch iPad Pro that starts at $599, $200 cheaper than the 12.9-inch original (add about $250 for the keyboard and stylus). Just as Microsoft and Samsung have done, Apple is targeting the hundreds of millions of people whose Windows machines are at least five years old. Apple says most iPad Pro customers are coming from Windows.

Bryan O'Neil Hughes, head of outreach and collaboration for software maker Adobe, says a faster processor and better graphics make the Pro something people choose—rather than settle for—when replacing PCs. Many professionals in creative industries, he says, prefer tablets over laptops for presentations, sketching and design.

Life & Style

Ben Affleck and Henry Cavill face off in 'Batman v Superman'

AP

Ben Affleck, left, and Henry Cavill attend the premiere of "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" at Radio City Music Hall on Sunday, March, 20, 2016, in New York.

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)— The oldest actor ever to don the Dark Knight's cape and cowl by a good five years, 43-year-old Ben Affleck wasn't about to get into a competition with his 32-year-old "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" co-star Henry Cavill over who's the better fighter. Not even a friendly one.

"Henry's great at it. And I'm just too old for that (expletive)," said Affleck, whose Batman, earthly limitations and all, takes on the Man of Steel in the Zack Snyder film out Friday.

"Ben's being very generous but it's not that tricky to do the Superman stuff," Cavill quickly responded. "What you're doing is you're throwing punches and then something super powered takes over. The CGI kicks in."

"He's great with heat vision! You should see it," Affleck said, laughing.

Anyone who knows anything about the world's most famous superheroes knows that it's not exactly a fair pairing. After all, no matter how much Batman bulks up or spends on gadgets and armor, he's still a man. Superman is something else. His actions in 2013's "Man of Steel" proved it, and also set into motion the events that lead to the showdown in "Batman v Superman."

Superman's "Man of Steel" triumph came at a cost. The bad guy was defeated, but his actions left a city destroyed, thousands of lives lost, and it made a powerful enemy in the superhero next door—Batman.

Affleck's Batman is older, wiser, and a little more jaded than we've ever seen him before. He's also suspicious of this all-powerful god-like being and decides that something must be done.

Thankfully, that fundamental day versus night, man versus alien rivalry didn't carry over when the cameras stopped rolling, although Affleck laughed that he was still getting used to the idea that he's not the young guy on set anymore.

"This is a hard movie, mechanically. It was disjointed in a lot of ways putting it together," Affleck said. "It was good that we got along and I had somebody like Henry to help me get through it. If we had hated each other it would have been an agonizing process. It was a long 120 days."

Plus, Cavill said, consistently trying to one-up someone is exhausting.

Besides, both actors had enough to think about, between making their characters distinctive and also getting into fighting shape. They had an advantage over many of their Hollywood counterparts just by nature of the fact that they're both north of 6 feet tall, but they still needed to build muscle and quickly lean down before filming started so they wouldn't have fat faces either, Cavill said.

Affleck said the costumers essentially became his conscience during the process.

"They have to keep coming over and doing measurements over and over again because the suit has to fit just right," Affleck said. "It gives you good track of your body. You feel like if you're not getting bigger the costumers will know it and think you must be slacking off."

Ultimately it was about establishing a believable reality for Batman's brute power on screen.

"Audiences really want and respect that actors will get themselves physically in the kind of shape that it's plausible to do this stuff," Affleck said. "Hugh Jackman's got to look right. He's got to look like Wolverine. When you see him, it's impressive and it makes you believe it."

Lex Luthor gets a childlike edge in 'Batman v Superman'

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)— Jesse Eisenberg didn't meet Ben Affleck on "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" until they were filming the party scene where Affleck's Bruce Wayne and Henry Cavill's Clark Kent interact for the first time—a crucial moment before their superhero alter egos face off.

Even then, he didn't spend much time with either Affleck or Cavill, who he also barely knew. For one, he was too busy talking to U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow from Michigan, who makes a cameo in the scene.

"I was so in my own world," he said.

Also, in portraying the eccentric, megalomaniac Lex Luthor who tears the two superheroes apart, he actually preferred meeting them in the spirit of the characters.

"It is funny working with guys like that. (They're) so massive and unusually attractive. It felt like I could push them around literally and annoy them and tease them and it would never really get to them. And they're also playing these powerful superheroes so it gave me more license to bother them," Eisenberg said.

The character of Lex Luthor is as essential to Superman as the red cape and the Man of Steel's ultimate earthbound foe has been played by everyone from Gene Hackman to Kevin Spacey. But this iteration neither looks nor sounds like any version of Lex that we're used to seeing. Instead of bespoke suits and the legendary bald dome, Eisenberg's Lex sports blazers, t-shirts and a wavy bob haircut (his idea). And while this millennial entrepreneur might be disarmingly intelligent and philosophical, he's also a spoiled brat at the core.

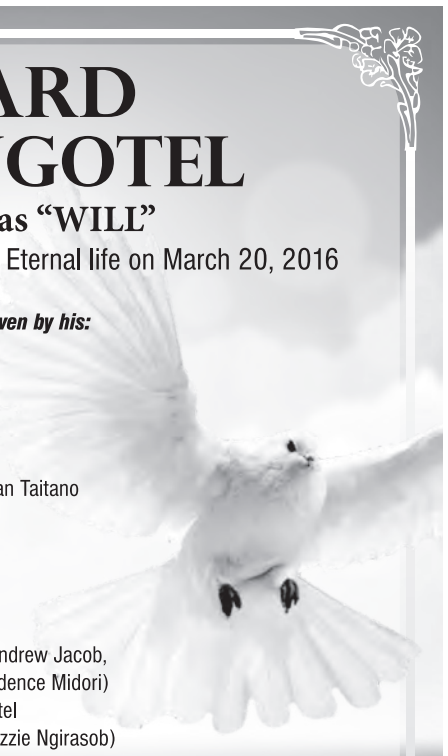
"He's like a child who hasn't yet been told how the world works and has a juvenile sense of propriety. If you take their toy away, the initial reaction is not anger, it's probably confusion," Eisenberg said. "He's a person who is struggling with real existential crises about his abusive childhood about his, let's say, perverse Freudian associations with Superman and his need for power in an unstable world."

The character he spends the most time with on screen though is neither Batman nor Superman but Holly Hunter's fictional U.S. Senator June Finch, who Lex sees as a potential ally.

†WILLARD
OTONG NGOTEL

Lovingly known as "WILL"

Born to life on May 12, 1955 • Called to Eternal life on March 20, 2016

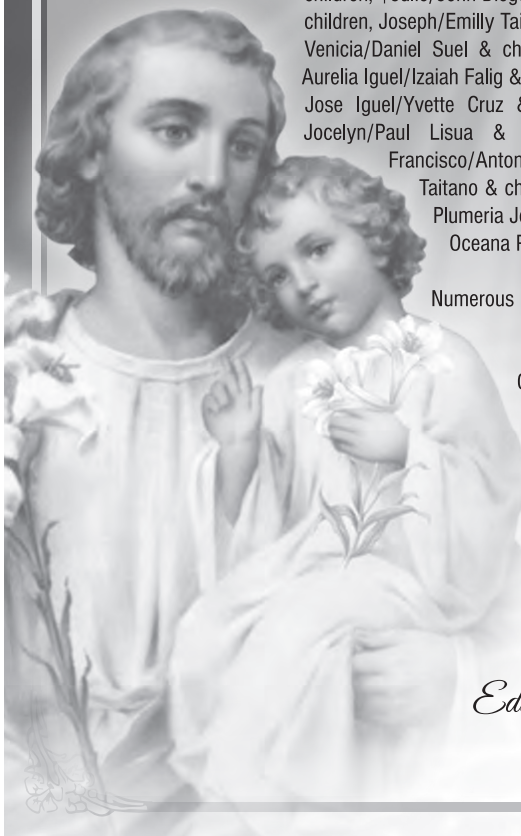


In his new Life, he will be welcomed at the gates of Heaven by his:

Father	:	Otong Ngotel
Mother-in-law	:	Maria Igitol Taitano
Father-in-law	:	Jose Esteves Taitano
Brother	:	Ben Ngotel
Sister	:	Seva Ngotel
Sisters-in-law	:	Teresa Igitol Taitano, Rita Sablan Taitano
Brother-in-law	:	Augustine Igitol Taitano

His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Mother	:	AnnMary Ngotel
Wife	:	Edwina Igitol Taitano-Ngotel
Children & Grandchildren	:	Wilton Lee & Crystal Ngotel (Andrew Jacob, Brendon Marley, Collin Lee, Cadence Midori) Waldron Martin & Sabrina Ngotel (Gregory Martin, Michie Upe, Ozzie Ngirasob) Walton Weilbacher Ngotel
Reared Son	:	Jamal S. Pangelinan
Brothers/Sisters	:	Wilber/Lourdes Ngotel & Children; Tarkong & Children, Gustav, Margaret
Brothers/Sisters-in-law	:	Escolastica/Sylvestre Iguel, Joaquin/Jocelyn Taitano, Ursula/Francisco Aldan, Francisco/Victoria Taitano
Nephews & Nieces	:	Sebastian/†Josephine Tajibmai & children, Juanita/Nelson Ebilane & children, †Julita/John Diego Palacios & children, Finian/Valerie Malwelbug & children, Veronica/†Canice Kapileo & children, Pedro Taitano/Del Norita & children, †Julie/John Diego Palacios & children, Mary Ann/John Mendiola & children, Joseph/Emilly Taitano & Children, Elaine/Henry Iguel & children, Venicia/Daniel Suel & children, John Iguel/Tanya Concepcion & daughter, Aurelia Iguel/Izaiah Falig & children, Gwendolyn Iguel/Ryan Sablan, Jose Iguel/Yvette Cruz & children Daisy/†Melchor Mendiola & children, Jocelyn/Paul Lisua & children, Dean/Annette Camacho & children, Francisco/Antonette Quitugua & children, Joaquin, Jr./Manuela Taitano & children, Justin, Jacquelyn (Kina), Maria Teresa (Isa), Plumeria Joy/Kolani Castro & children, Skye Lynn, Oceana Pia, Sunny Frank, Nathan, Jeremy, Mariana



Numerous nephews, nieces, godchildren, cousins, aunts, uncles, friends will miss him dearly...

On Monday, March 28, 2016 at 7:30 a.m. he will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center Chapel to his residence in Tanapag. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. at the Nuestra Senora Bithen Delos Remedios Church followed by Interment Services at Tanapag Cemetary.

Your thoughts, prayers, words of comfort and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Edwina Igitol Taitano-Ngotel and Children

Hello, Buenos Aires: The Obamas do the tango

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Less than 24 hours in Buenos Aires, and Barack Obama is already doing the tango.

The president and first lady Michelle Obama were attending a state dinner in the Argentine capital Wednesday evening when they were pulled abruptly onto the dance floor on by a pair of tango dancers hired to provide the entertainment.

At first, the woman in the shimmering gold dress seemed to content to twirl with her partner, but then she made a beeline for the president and beckoned him to the floor.

"No, no," Obama's face seemed to say, as he declined her invitation not once but multiple times. But the dancer wasn't to be deterred.

She got her way, and Obama was soon sashaying across the floor. Flawless it was not, but the president eventually caught on. By the time the music slowed to a halt, the two were in lockstep, arms high in the air as an audience of hundreds looked on.

AP

President Barack Obama does the tango with a dancer during the State Dinner at the Centro Cultural Kirchner, Wednesday, March 23, 2016, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Mrs. Obama got in on the action, too, twisting back and forth with the black-clad male dancer.

The unexpected moment came at the end of a candlelit state dinner that Argentine President Mauricio Macri hosted for the Obamas. It has been nearly 20 years since a U.S. president has made a formal state visit to Argentina.

Elegant, slow-moving and sensuous, the tango has its roots in Argentina's capital, which hosts annual tango festivals. One of the most popular flavors of ballroom dance, it quickly spread from Buenos Aires to other parts of Latin America and beyond.

Toasting his host, Obama quoted Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges: "And now, I think that in this country, we have a certain right to hope."

Obama added a few reflections of his own.

"This is a new beginning," he said.

Rap pioneer Phife Dawg of A Tribe Called Quest dies at 45

NEW YORK (AP)—Phife Dawg, a masterful lyricist whose witty wordplay was a linchpin of the groundbreaking hip-hop group A Tribe Called Quest, died Tuesday from complications resulting from diabetes, his family said in a statement on Wednesday. He was 45.

Born Malik Isaac Taylor, he was known as the "Five Foot Assassin" because he was 5 feet 3 inches tall.

"Malik was our loving husband, father, brother and friend. We love him dearly. How he impacted all our lives will never be forgotten. His love for music and sports was only surpassed by his love of God and family," the statement read.

AP

In this Nov. 12, 2015 file photo, Malik Isaac Taylor aka Phife Dawg, of A Tribe Called Quest, poses for a portrait at Sirius XM studios in New York.

The family did not disclose any other details.

Taylor, who earned respect for his skillful and thoughtful rhymes, was part of a number of rap classics with Tribe, including "Scenario," ''Bonita Applebum," ''Can I Kick It?" and "I Left My Wallet in El Segundo," among others.

"I like 'em brown, yellow, Puerto Rican or Haitian, name is Phife Dawg from the Zulu Nation," he famously rapped on "Electric Relaxation."

The remaining members of A Tribe Called Quest released a statement expressing their sadness at Taylor's death and thanking fans for their support.

"Our hearts are heavy. We are devastated," the group wrote in a statement. "This is something we weren't prepared for although we all know that life is fleeting."

Taylor grew up in Queens, New York, with fellow Tribe member Q-Tip. In high school, the two met Ali Shaheed Muhammad, who is from Brooklyn, to form Tribe. Jarobi White later joined the group. The collective—known for its artistic songs and lyrics—recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of their debut album, "People's Instinctive Travels and the Paths of Rhythm."

Case dismissed if 'Orange is the New Black' actress behaves

NEW YORK (AP)—Assault charges will be dismissed against an "Orange is the New Black" star if she stays out of trouble for six months.

The 33-year-old Dascha Polanco was accused of assaulting a 17-year-old girl inside Polanco's upper Manhattan apartment last summer.

The Manhattan district attorney's office says prosecutors consulted the teenager, Michelle Cardona, who is now 18, before offering Polanco the deal.

Polanco denied the assault allegation, and her lawyer, Gerald Lefcourt, called the accusation an extortion attempt.

Lefcourt says Polanco is "delighted" to be able to put the matter behind her.

Polanco plays inmate Dayanara Diaz on Netflix's "Orange is the New Black."

She also played the title character's best friend in the movie "Joy," starring Jennifer Lawrence.

AP

In this Feb. 13, 2016 file photo, Dascha Polanco attends the 68th Annual Writers Guild Awards in New York.

Wife's weight loss draws looks from wrong direction

DEAR ABBY: I'm 39 and have been married for nine years. Three years into our marriage I got sick and lost a lot of weight. I now turn heads everywhere I go. All except the head I want to turn—my husband's.

He drives a truck and all he does is talk to and sext larger, unattractive older women. He has gone to counseling and 12-step meetings, and I've told him to get out numerous times. Nothing has helped.

I'm now getting to the point that I feel I can work again. Is it wrong for me to be making an exit plan for when my son from a previous marriage turns 18?

TURNS THE WRONG HEADS

DEAR TURNS: If I told you it was wrong, would you stop doing it and remain in an unhappy marriage? I doubt it. If your husband is attracted to other women and acting on it, you should absolutely prepare yourself for the day you declare your independence. It's far more sensible than being unprepared.

DEAR ABBY: My brother got married a year ago after dating for less than a year. His wife started calling my parents Mom and Dad from the get-go. I didn't realize how much it would bother me, but it does and, frankly, I resent her for it.

I'm very close to my parents, and I view our bond as sacred. To me, Mom and Dad aren't names you use lightly, to be cute or as a term of endearment. The relationship is earned and unique.

I would never think of calling my husband's parents Mom and Dad, and I don't feel that I'm offending them by not doing so. Is there a proper way to discuss this with my brother and sister-in-law without hurting feelings or creating tension?

ANNOYED SISTER-IN-LAW

DEAR ANNOYED: Calm down and curb the attitude, because if you say anything you will appear to be jealous and petty. What your sister-in-law is doing is very common. Regardless of what she calls your parents, you are still their daughter and she is not. If they didn't like her calling them Mom and Dad, I'm sure they would let her know they preferred she choose something else.

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with a really great guy for five years. He is wonderful to my son and treats him as his own.

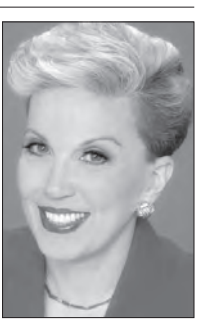
The problem is, I don't think I am capable of truly being in love with anyone. I care deeply about him -- as much as I am capable of loving. My question is, would it be unfair to him if I agree to marry him knowing he loves me more than I love him?

TO MARRY OR NOT TO MARRY

DEAR T.M. OR N.T.M.: I'm not sure many couples love each other equally. More often one loves the other more. If you think you can be a good wife to this man, then marry him. Obviously, you have a high degree of compatibility, or he wouldn't be considering marriage to you.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

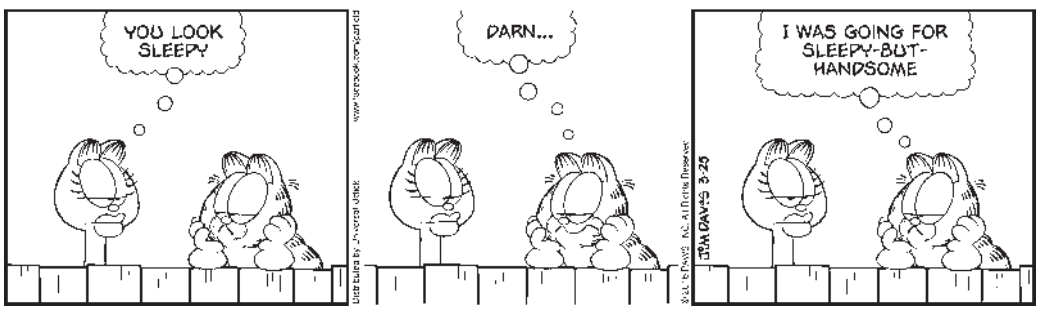
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I'VE DECIDED WE SHOULD BE "COOLER" THAN WE ARE.
WE'RE NOT COOL?
SURE WE'RE COOL. BUT WE'RE NOT AS COOL AS WE COULD BE.
COOL PEOPLE WEAR DARK GLASSES!
IT'S COOL TO BUMP INTO THINGS?
YOU DON'T MOVE, YOU JUST HANG AROUND.

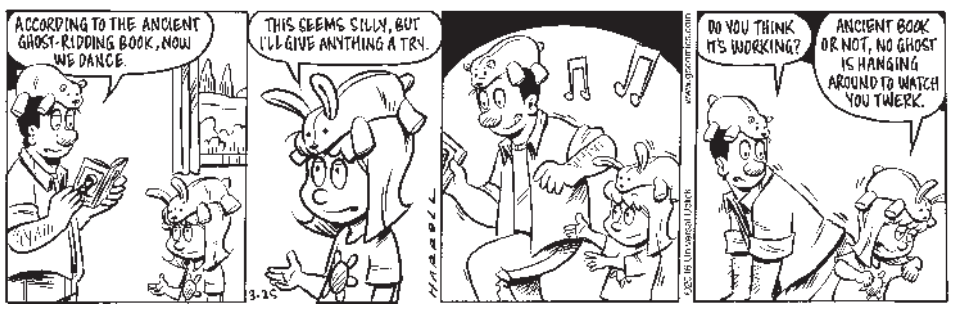
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



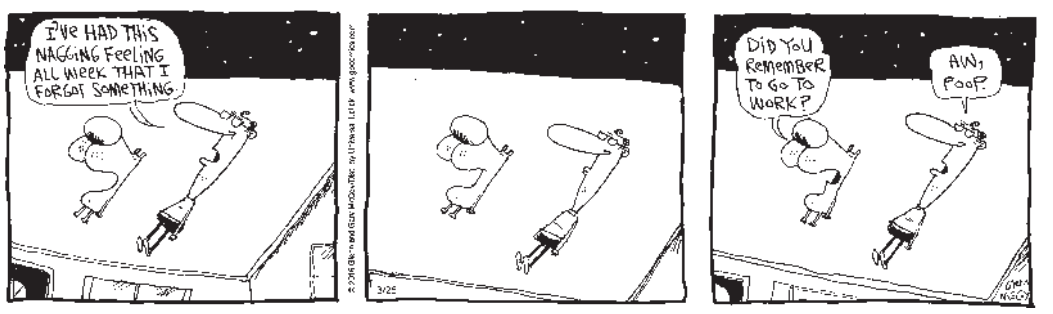
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ACCORDING TO THE ANCIENT GHOST-RIDDING BOOK, NOW WE DANCE.
THIS SEEMS SILLY, BUT I'LL GIVE ANYTHING A TRY.
DO YOU THINK IT'S WORKING?
ANCIENT BOOK OR NOT, NO GHOST IS HANGING AROUND TO WATCH YOU TWERK.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

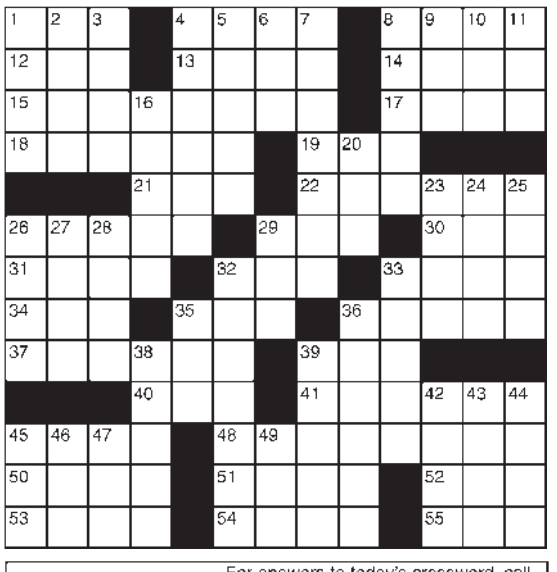
ACROSS
1 Filch
4 Barter
8 Has to
12 Copper head?
13 Informal greeting
14 — Major
15 Support for a baby grand
17 Show off the biceps
18 Dullsville
19 Amiss
21 Sch. org.
22 Render defenseless
26 Nasty stingers
29 Opposite of bellum
30 Spell-down
31 Wartime partner
32 Petrol
33 Carrots' mates
34 Air safety org.
35 Like some humor
36 Country estate
37 Walk lightly
39 Fa-la link
40 Skirt edge
41 Harsh
45 Jupiter's wife
48 Speed demon's attribute
50 Miles off
51 — uncertain terms
52 Light brown
53 German city
54 Peace-keeping gp.
55 Reggae relative

DOWN
1 Engrossed
2 Theater award
3 Abacus piece
4 Hollers
5 Mrs. Flintstone
6 Nay undoer
7 Asian temples
8 Bungles
9 Online address
10 Compass dir.
11 Levy
16 Chilly
20 Predicament
23 First victim
24 Authentic
25 Small plateau
26 Float gently
27 Jai —
28 Strike
29 Salary
32 Glitch-causing gnome
33 Rice recipe
35 Misery
36 Type of doll
38 Rose protector
39 Meager
42 Decays
43 Long bath
44 Sicilian spouter
45 Poke
46 Roswell sighting
47 A Bobbsey twin
49 Bambi's aunt

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	E	A	L	■	C	A	L	F	■	C	A	W
E	L	S	E	■	A	G	A	R	■	O	L	E
B	L	I	N	D	D	A	T	E	■	L	C	A
T	A	S	T	E	S	■	■	U	D	D	E	P
■	■	■	E	R	■	J	A	D	E	D	■	■
H	A	W	N	■	E	U	H	■	B	U	M	P
U	Z	I	■	■	P	I	T	■	■	C	O	O
N	O	N	O	■	I	C	Y	■	S	K	I	T
■	■	■	D	A	R	C	Y	■	F	E	■	■
P	F	O	R	C	■	■	C	A	N	O	I	A
O	R	O	■	S	A	L	A	D	D	A	Y	S
S	S	W	■	I	G	O	R	■	E	T	R	E
Y	E	N	■	N	O	P	E	■	R	H	E	A

Yesterday's answer 3-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Marcia Cross, 54; Sarah Jessica Parker, 51; Elton John, 69; Aretha Franklin, 74.

Happy Birthday: Talk matters through instead of wasting time making assumptions. It's important not to pontificate when you should be getting to the heart of the matter and sorting out your best courses of action. Keep your personal and professional goals separate from one another to avoid spinning your wheels. Make calculated rather than impulsive moves. Your numbers are 6, 11, 16, 27, 31, 38, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): There's no revenge like success. Don't put your energy into something that will bring you nothing in return. Bring about changes that will lead to a future filled with hope. Positive actions will bring good results. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Be bold and outspoken. It's time to share your talents and work hard to impress everyone around you who can play an instrumental role in your advancement. Make plans to celebrate your victory with someone you love. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Overindulging could end up causing a problem with a friend, or put you in a precarious position financially, physically or legally. It's best not to take a chance that could risk your reputation and emotional well-being. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Step into the spotlight at work-related events or a reunion with old colleagues or peers. You'll be given an unusual offer that will be hard to refuse. Look at the perks and make a move. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll learn through experience, so jump in and participate in activities or events that will bring you in contact with interesting people. Extra discipline will help you accomplish a goal you thought was out of reach. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Be cautious when handling money matters. Not all opportunities are equal. Listen to the ups and downs, and take the route that is most secure. Knowledge will be the key to coming out a winner. Romance will improve your day. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Put greater emphasis on your relationships with friends, family and colleagues. How you treat the people you deal with each day will determine how far you get in life. Offer sincerity, compassion and patience, and you will avoid opposition. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Your intuitive, sensitive and creative nature will help you find unusual opportunities to use your talents to the fullest. Make romance a priority, and you will be inspired by someone who encourages you to do your best. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't let anyone bamboozle you into something that isn't in your best interest. Concentrate on home, family and bringing about changes that will give you the freedom to follow your heart and your dreams. Use your intelligence to avoid being deceived. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Put an unusual spin on the way you do things, and you will get a fresh take on how you can improve what you already have and save money at the same time. Avoid costly ventures and unnecessary travel. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can put your energy to good use. Making personal improvements to the way you look through physical fitness programs or fixing up your home to suit your current pursuits will turn out well and encourage your success. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Share your feelings with someone you want to spend more time with. Your ideas will be well-received, and the input you get will help you iron out details. Avoid situations that concern authority figures, and do your best to move forward. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are impulsive, persuasive and forceful. You are persistent and challenging.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9		1	2	6		8		5
					4			
		5				3		
	4							1
8								9
7							2	
		6				1		
			3					
1		4		9	7	5		6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	1	5	2	3	6	7	8	9
8	3	9	4	7	5	1	2	6
2	6	7	9	8	1	4	5	3
3	2	6	1	5	4	9	7	8
7	9	1	3	6	8	2	4	5
5	4	8	7	2	9	3	6	1
1	5	4	8	9	2	6	3	7
6	7	2	5	1	3	8	9	4
9	8	3	6	4	7	5	1	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK — Solution: 5 letters

C	B	E	E	T	R	A	G	G	A	T	E	T	O	N
O	A	E	K	A	E	L	O	H	O	T	E	L	I	A
T	C	M	A	A	G	L	N	A	R	O	M	B	N	T
T	K	O	P	R	N	L	Ⓔ	Ⓛ	Ⓚ	O	A	I	C	I
O	C	C	T	G	S	S	E	V	O	C	R	R	L	O
N	O	A	A	T	R	E	P	S	A	A	H	E	I	N
W	U	H	N	B	A	O	E	A	M	T	S	T	M	A
O	N	I	O	Y	E	G	U	T	L	P	I	L	B	L
O	T	K	S	N	O	S	E	N	O	D	F	O	I	A
D	R	I	I	E	O	N	R	S	D	W	I	C	N	I
U	Y	N	B	E	V	D	S	O	A	S	G	N	G	C
B	N	G	R	A	Y	L	L	I	H	K	S	O	G	A
O	N	R	O	H	G	N	O	R	P	O	I	N	T	L
I	E	F	I	L	D	L	I	W	Y	O	M	I	N	G
S	J	A	C	K	S	O	N	I	A	T	N	U	O	M

©2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 3/25

Backcountry, Bears, Bison, Cabin, Campgrounds, Canyons, Climbing, Colter, Cottages, Cottonwood, Donoho, Dubois, Eagles, Elevation, Elk, Fish, Glacial, Gray, Hiking, Hill, Hole, Horseback, Hotel, Jackson, Jenny, Marina, Moose, Moran, Mountain, National, Point, Pronghorn, Snake, Spalding, Taggart, Teton, Togwotee, Wildlife, Wolves, Wyoming

Yesterday's Answer: Spaces

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 120 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Ships that pass in the night

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Find today's solution in classified section

Acupuncturist to provide holistic acupuncture and oriental medicine treatment.

Resume to: Salty Saipan Corp.
PMB 731 Box 10001 Saipan MP96950

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. KIM EUGENE FORRESTER, Defendant.	**Civil Action No. 14-0223** **NOTICE OF HEARING ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO CONFIRM SALE OF DEFENDANT'S REMAINING LEASEHOLD INTEREST ON THE MORTGAGE PROPERTY**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the attached Motion to Confirm Sale of Defendant's remaining leasehold interest on the Mortgaged Property by Plaintiff Bank of Guam has been filed with the Court and said Motion is set for a hearing on this 5th day of April, 2016, at 1:30pm, before Judge Camacho in the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 17th day of February, 2016.

/s/
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT for MISA ENTERPRISES,INC.

General Maintenance (3): Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing , repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. All applicants must be of good health and good moral character must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of position listed above are required to have a minimum of 2-3 years of experience.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered.

Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant MISA Bldg.1 in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

JAGUAR LIMITED
DBA: CLUB MERMAID

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) General Manager
Salary: $1,500.00 per month
- 10 years experience as a General Manager
- Must be a College Graduate

PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESUME to PMB 697 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950 or contact our Office at Tel. (670) 233-1545 between 2:30PM – 9:00PM

WANTED

Cement Supervisor
Salary: $7.73 per hour
Must have cement handling equipment experience

Apply in person at
Hanson Micronesia Cement Inc., Puerto Rico

Cement Laborer
Cement handling equipment experience preferred.
Will train motivated individuals
Wages based on experience

Apply in person at
Hanson Micronesia Cement Inc.
Tel: 670 322-3333

MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

EMPLOYMENT

1 General Manager (Accounting): $1,000-1,800/mo. 5 years of managerial experience required. Must have majored in accounting. 10 years of accounting experience required. Korean writing and speaking fluency required. Email resume to hps@hanmisaipan.com.

1 Cook (Korean cuisine): $6.05/hr. At least 2 years professional cooking experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to kl@hanmisaipan.com.

2 Cook (Korean cuisine): $6.05/hr. At least 2 years of professional cooking experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to wing@hanmisaipan.com.

1 Butcher: $6.05/hr. High school diploma and at least 3 years experience required. Email resume to dolim@hanmisaipan.com.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

RAND CONSTRUCTION
is in need of the following:

- (4) **Mason**
- (3) **Carpenter**
- (4) **Housekeeping**

At least 2 years work experience.

If interested, email:
rand.email286@gmail.com
or submit resume to:
P.O. Box 501263,
Saipan, MP 96950

SECTION 8 VOUCHER ACCEPTED

NEW 2, 3, and 4 bedroom energy efficient apartments in Saipan. Lower utility costs up to 70% through solar panels and solar hot water.

NOW LEASING
Starting @ $599/mo.

OPEN HOUSE
MONDAY - FRIDAY • 9AM - 4PM
For pictures, amenities, and application information visit our website
www.ironwoodhousing.com
or call 670-233-4348. Applications are being accepted Monday - Friday, 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. and on Saturday, 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m., at Ironwood Community Center on Middle Road, Gualo Rai.

Job opening

SAMCORP IMPORTS
Sales associates: Looking for a sales person, for both on and off premises sales. Must have a valid driver license, and be able to drive both manual and automatic. Background on distribution sales and marketing is a plus. Knowledge in wine, liquor and tobacco is a plus. Must be able to use a computer, with knowledge in work/excel/ QuickBooks. Must be able to lift heavy boxes for delivery and stocking. Must be able to communicate in a polite and understandable voice.

Accountant / Secretary: must be knowledgeable on NMI government paperwork filings and dates. Must be able to use a computer, with knowledge in work/excel/ QuickBooks. Must have a valid driver license, and be able to drive both manual and automatic. Must be able to communicate in a polite and understandable voice.

R&J WINE, LIQUOR AND TOBACCO
Sales Associates: must have some background and experience as a retail cleric. Knowledge in wine, liquor and tobacco is a plus. Must be able to use a computer, with knowledge in work/excel/ QuickBooks. Must be able to lift heavy boxes for delivery and stocking. Must be able to communicate in a polite and understandable voice.

DANDAN GOLF COURSE
Sales Associates: must have some background and experience as a retail cleric. Must be able to use a computer, with knowledge in work/excel/ QuickBooks. Must be able to lift heavy boxes for delivery and stocking. Must be able to communicate in a polite and understandable voice.

PACIFIC DISTILLERY
Master Rum Distiller: must have experience in distilling rum from molasses or brown sugar. Must have experience with fermentation and distilling a single and double column still. Must be able to use a computer, with knowledge in work/excel/ QuickBooks. Must be able to lift heavy boxes for delivery and stocking. Must be able to communicate in a polite and understandable voice.

All jobs pay will be match with experience, local and US citizen preferred. Please submit your resume to ric@samcorpimports.com, please state which job position you are applying for.

PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!
For opportunities contact us at **235-6397**

R.E.A.L. Corporation is looking for

(8) Construction Worker
(5) Mason
(5) Carpenter

Interested applicants may e-mail remypamintuan@gmail.com for more information.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

SEAL-LOCK PACIFIC CO., INC., hereby issues this notice that it has filed for dissolution at the Office of the Registrar of Corporation. Any person who objects to such dissolution must give good cause for his objection, within one (1) week from date of last publication of this notice, to be submitted to the Office of the Registrar of Corporation.

Issued at Saipan, CNMI, this 24th day of March, 2016.

USED GUNS WANTED

looking to buy functional used guns, good conditions and registered; mini-14, 22 caliber, 41OS.

Please call 483-5155

Job Vacancy Announcement

(2) Cooks

- Knowledgeable in Chinese Cuisine
- Ability to speak Chinese language is a plus
- Must have a minimum of 2 years work related experience.

Interested applicants may call at (670) 989-4676

Feng Shun Corp. dba Face to Face Restaurant

Warehouse for RENT

REM LOWERBASE

Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

Backhoe for Rent

For inquiries, please call
285-0478

- Security Services
- General Help Supply Services
- Heavy Equipment Rental
- Auto & Heavy Equipment Repair Shop

Saipan Adventures, Inc.

invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Customer Service Supervisor, Operations (4)
High School Diploma, GED, or equivalent. At least three (3) years work experience in a tour/travel agency, sales or service related work preferably with at least two (2) years of experience supervising a team of tour sales agents. Must be able to speak, read, write, and understand English and in Chinese (Mandarin) preferred. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their resumes to savi_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than April 06, 2016. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Applicants must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Saipan Adventures, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Sales Officer
Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than April 01, 2016.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Equipment Parts Person

Wage Range: $6.05 to $7.05 per hour depending on qualifications and experience, 2 years minimum in equipment parts position preferred.

Must be familiar with heavy equipment such as dump trucks, concrete mixer trucks, loaders, excavators, graders, etc. There are also light duty trucks and vehicles in the fleet. Receive parts, stock shelves, inventory parts, provide order information to parts manager based on minimum inventory levels for parts, keep stockrooms and inventories organized. May help search catalogs for stock numbers and catalog numbers of parts. Maintain inventory and help track down rare parts for older machines and equipment. Prepare service kits for maintenance based on hour or mileage maintenance schedules.

Send Resume: David L. Bush, General Manager, Hawaiian Rock Products,
PMB 139, PPP P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950; by facsimile (670) 288-0408;
or by e-mail to dbush@hawaiianrock.com

HAW'N ROCK PRODUCTS CORP.

WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Century Tours, Inc.

invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Accountant (2)
Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with at least three (3) years work experience in general and financial accounting, preferably in tour operation, sales or service based work environment. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software. Previous experience with HR Information and/or Enterprise Resource Planning Systems is an advantage.

Accountant (2 Part-Time)
Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with at least three (3) years work experience in general and financial accounting, preferably in tour operation, sales or service based work environment. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software. Previous experience with HR Information and/or Enterprise Resource Planning Systems is an advantage.

Accounting Manager (1)
College degree in finance, accounting, economics, or business administration and five (5) years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of three (3) years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software.

Customer Service Agent (6)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least two (2) months work experience in travel/tour operation or sales or service based work environment, room reservations and vendor relations. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Korean, Japanese, or Chinese languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Customer Service Agent (6 Part-Time)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least two (2) months work experience in travel/tour operation or sales or service based work environment, room reservations and vendor relations. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Korean, Japanese, or Chinese languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Customer Service Supervisor, Retail (2)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. At least one (1) to two (2) years of related supervisory experience in a luxury retail environment. Must have the knowledge and computer skills to handle the POS register and other operations and communication systems.

Operations Manager (1)
College or Associate's degree in Management, Travel and Tour or any related field. At least three (3) years of progressive management experience in tour and travel operations is required. Written and verbal communications skills in English and Chinese (Mandarin) preferred, must be able to communicate with Chinese vendors and suppliers. Must be willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Sales Associate, Retail (4)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. Prior experience in luxury retail sales is preferred including the ability to read, speak and understand English and Chinese (Mandarin). Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Must be familiar with the Point-Of-Sales (POS) System. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Sales Associate (10 Part-Time)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. Prior experience in luxury retail sales is preferred including the ability to read, speak and understand English and Chinese (Mandarin). Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Must be familiar with the Point-Of-Sales (POS) System.

Tour Sales Representative (18)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. A minimum of six (6) months to one (1) year experience in a related field. Work experience with travel and tour operation is an advantage. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Russian, Korean, or Chinese languages.

Interested applicants may send their resumes to ceti_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than April 06, 2016. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Applicants must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Tours, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Job Vacancy Announcement

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Classification: Hourly, may lead to a salaried staff position.

Wage Range: $10.50 to $12.00 per hour, depending on qualifications and experience.

Reports to: General Manager

JOB DESCRIPTION
Summary/Objective: The human resource manager is directly responsible for the overall administration, coordination and evaluation of the human resource function.

Essential Functions: Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

1. Develops and administers various human resources plans and procedures for all company personnel.
2. Plans, organizes and controls all activities of the department. Participates in developing department goals, objectives and systems.
3. Helps GM develop, recommend and implement personnel policies and procedures; prepares and maintains handbook on policies and procedures; performs benefits administration to include claims resolution, change reporting, approving invoices for payment, annual re-evaluation of policies for cost-effectiveness, information activities program and cash flow.
4. Develops and maintains affirmative action program; files EEO-1 annually; maintains other records, reports and logs to conform to EEO regulations.
5. Conducts recruitment effort for all exempt and nonexempt personnel, students and temporary employees; conducts new-employee orientations; monitors career-pathing program, employee relations counseling, outplacement counseling and exit interviewing; writes and places advertisements.
6. Establishes and maintains department records and reports. Participates in administrative staff meetings and attends other meetings, such as seminars. Maintains company organization charts and employee directory.
7. Evaluates reports, decisions and results of department in relation to established goals. Recommends new approaches, policies and procedures to effect continual improvements in efficiency of department and services performed.
8. Performs other incidental and related duties as required and assigned.
9. Processes paperwork necessary for Contract Worker (CW) visa renewals, transfers, and new hires.
10. Maintains all records and generates reports required for USCIS and other agencies.
11. Manages the employee requests for HRP 401K program loans and other matters concerning the program.

Competencies:

1. Human Resources Capacity
2. Ethical Conduct
3. Strategic Thinking.
4. Leadership.
5. Decision Making.
6. Financial Management.

Work Environment: This job operates in a professional office environment. This role routinely uses standard office equipment such as computers, phones, photocopiers, filing cabinets and fax machines.

Physical Demands: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is occasionally required to stand; walk; sit; use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects, tools or controls; reach with hands and arms; climb stairs; balance; stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl; talk or hear; and taste or smell. The employee must occasionally lift or move up to 25 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by the job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception and the ability to adjust focus.

Position Type/Expected Hours of Work: This is a full-time position. Days and hours of work are Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. This position regularly requires long hours and sometimes weekend work.

Required Education and Experience: A bachelor's degree and three years of human resource experience, or nine years' experience in the HR field.

Preferred Additional Eligibility Qualification: SHRM Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP) certification (preferred)

Other Duties: Work with accountant and office personnel to support needs of employees and management staff.

Send Resume: David L. Bush, General Manager, Hawaiian Rock Products,
PMB 139, PPP P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950; by facsimile (670) 288-0408;
or by e-mail to dbush@hawaiianrock.com

HAW'N ROCK PRODUCTS CORP.

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Curry powers Warriors to 51st straight home win

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Stephen Curry scored 33 points a few hours after coach Steve Kerr declared Golden State is all about the NBA wins record, and the Warriors stayed right on track to make more history Wednesday night with a 114-98 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Klay Thompson added 32 points with seven 3-pointers, Curry drew a rare technical in the fourth, and Harrison Barnes had 11 points and six rebounds as Golden State (64-7) stayed one game ahead of the 1995-96 Bulls' pace in their record 72-win season.

The Warriors won their 51st straight regular-season home game, improving to 33-0 this season at rockin' Oracle Arena -- where the fans let the rival Clippers have it at every opportunity.

DeAndre Jordan scored 19 points for the Clippers, swept by Golden State for the first time since dropping all six meetings in 1985-86.

Spurs 112, Heat 88

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard matched his career high with 32 points before leaving with a bruised quadriceps and San Antonio beat Miami to remain perfect at home.

San Antonio has won its first 36 home games, leaving the Spurs a game shy of matching the record set by Chicago in 1995-96. The Spurs have won 45 consecutive regular-season games at home over two seasons.

Leonard's injury could have put a damper on the team's 60th overall victory, but it did not appear serious. He left with 6:01 remaining in the third quarter completing a three-point play after being fouled on a driving layup by Justise Winslow.

Cavaliers 113, Bucks 104

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 26 points, and Kevin Love added 24 in Cleveland's victory over Milwaukee.

Kyrie Irving flirted with a triple-double on his 24th birthday, finishing with 16 points, eight rebounds and eight assists. Tristan Thompson added 13 points and 10 rebounds to help Cleveland maintain its grip on the top seed in the Eastern Conference.

However, the Cavs didn't put the Bucks away until the final minute, when J.R. Smith's 3-pointer with 20 seconds left put Cleveland ahead 111-102. Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 24 points for the Bucks.

Suns 119, Lakers 107

In Phoenix, Kobe Bryant said farewell to Phoenix, scoring 17 points cheered on by a loud, pro-Lakers crowd in a loss to the Suns.

Bryant played for the 47th and final time in Phoenix, capping his career finale in the desert with a pair of 3-pointers in the fourth quarter. The 37-year-old five-time NBA champion left the game with 1:05 to play, hugging the Suns' P.J. Tucker and waving to the cheering crowd as he headed to the bench.

Devin Booker, the Suns' 19-year-old rookie, scored 28 points in his one and only game against Bryant, who sat out the previous three meetings against Phoenix this season. Brandon Knight added 25 points, and Jon Leuer had 23 points and a career-high 14 rebounds.

Pistons 118, Magic 102

In Auburn Hills, Andre Drummond had 30 points and 14 rebounds, and Detroit never trailed in its victory over Orlando.

Chasing their first postseason appearance since 2009, the Pistons have won four straight, and they still have four games to go on their nine-game homestand.

Detroit shot 54 percent from the field and 11 of 24 from 3-point range.

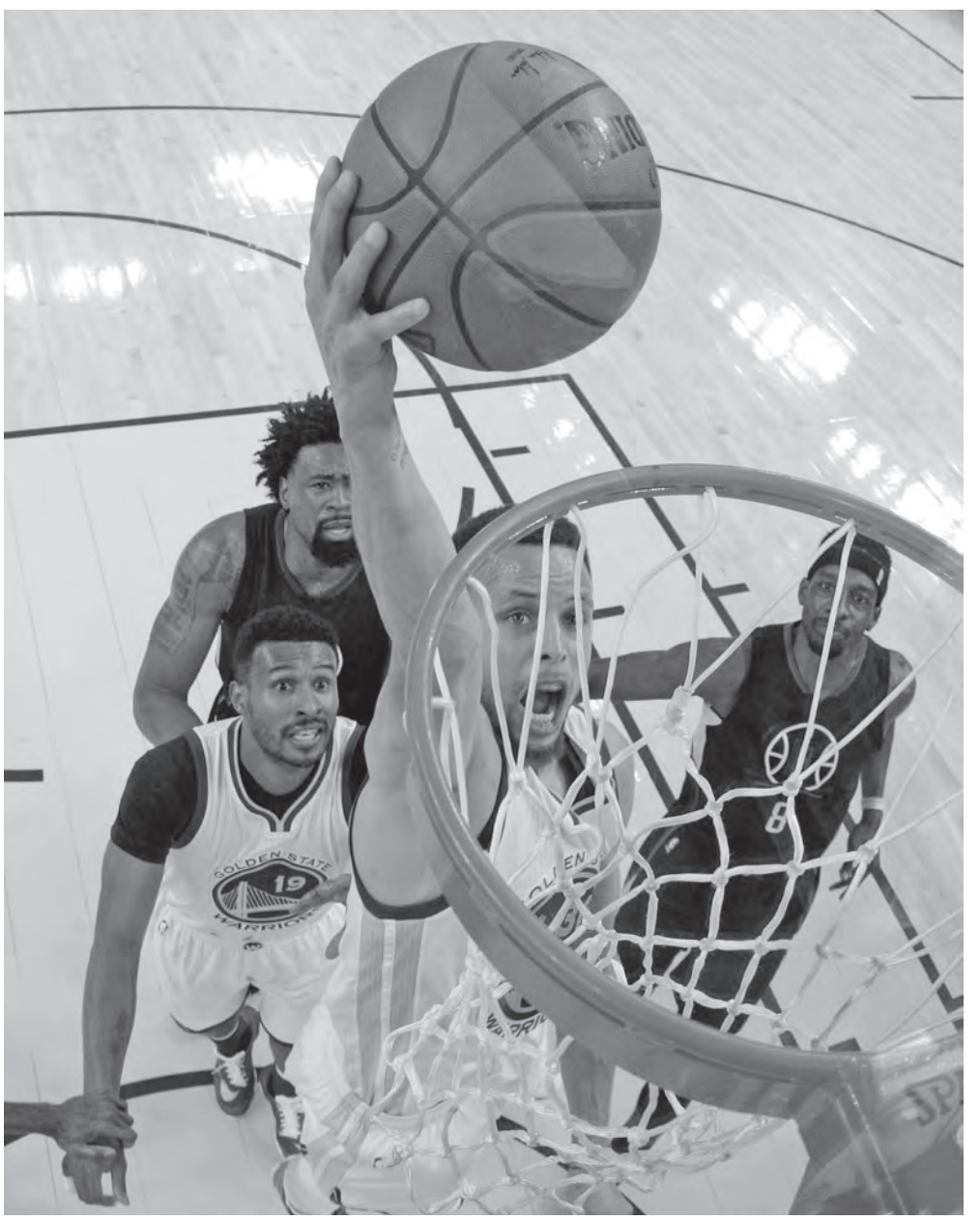
Tobias Harris scored 18 points for the Pistons against his former team, and Reggie Jackson added 16 points and nine assists. Elfrid Payton had 20 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for Orlando.

Trail Blazers 109, Mavericks 103

In Portland, Damian Lillard had 27 points and six assists, Ed Davis scored all of his 16 points in the first half and Portland beat Dallas.

Maurice Harkless, starting for just the fourth time all season, and C.J. McCollum each added 14 points for the Blazers.

Former Blazers guard Wesley Matthews led the Mavericks with 22 points. Salah Mejri, making his fourth start of the season, added 14 points and 12 rebounds, and Dirk Nowitzki scored 21 points. Dallas fell into a tie with Utah for seventh in the West.



AP

Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, top, drives to the basket against the Los Angeles Clippers during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 23, 2016, in Oakland, Calif. Golden State won, 114-98.

Knicks 115, Bulls 107

In Chicago, rookie Kristaps Porzingis matched his season high with 29 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, Carmelo Anthony added 24 points and New York beat Chicago.

In the front end of back-to-back with the Knicks, the Bulls dropped behind Detroit in the Eastern Conference standings for the eighth and final playoff spot.

Nuggets 104, Sixers 103

In Denver, Emmanuel Mudiay made a 35-footer at the buzzer to finish with 27 points and give the Denver a victory over Philadelphia.

Mudiay, who also had 11 rebounds, was sandwiched between two defenders and nearly lost the ball before regaining control and launching the winning shot. Nikola Jokic and Gary Harris added 18 points apiece.

T.J. McConnell had 17 points for the 76ers.

Hawks 122, Wizards 101

In Washington, reserve Dennis Schroder scored 23 points, Kyle Korver connected on five 3-pointers, and Atlanta beat Washington to split the home-and-home series.

Atlanta made a season-high 17 3s to keep pace in a competitive Eastern Conference playoff picture. Paul Millsap scored 17, Korber had 15, and Al Horford 13.

Marcus Thornton led Washington with 23 points. The Wizards beat the Hawks 117-102 in Atlanta on Monday night.

Jazz 89, Rockets 87

In Houston, Derrick Favors' dunk with 1.6 seconds left lifted Utah past Houston.

Gordon Hayward had 22 points, and Favors added 17 for Utah.

The Jazz trailed by as many as 18 in the second half before rallying for their first lead of the game with about 4 minutes left.

After Favors' dunk, James Harden's 3-point attempt bounced off the rim. Harden finished with 26 points, 10 assists, seven rebounds and a career-high eight steals.

Celtics 91, Raptors 79

In Boston, Isaiah Thomas scored 23 points, Evan Turner added 17 and Boston beat Toronto.

Avery Bradley had 16 points and eight rebounds to help the Celtics win their third consecutive game.

DeMar DeRozan led the Raptors with 21 points. Point guard Kyle Lowry sat out, resting a sore right elbow. Toronto had a four-game winning streak snapped and fell 2 1/2 games behind Cleveland for the best record in the Eastern Conference.

Timberwolves 113, Kings 104

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns had 26 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks to lead Minnesota past Sacramento.

Zach LaVine scored all 23 of his points in the second half, Andrew Wiggins also had 23 and the Timberwolves overcame a sluggish start to get just their second home victory of the month. They shot 56 percent and had 29 assists to overcome 18-for-32 shooting at the free throw line.

Rajon Rondo had 25 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds, but the Kings sorely missed star center DeMarcus Cousins.

Day tweaks back in victory at Match Play

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Jason Day was 3 up with four holes to play, an ideal start to the Dell Match Play that included five birdies and hardly any stress.

And then he felt his back tighten on a tee shot at the 15th hole.

It stung so badly on his next tee shot that Day grabbed his back and winced. He stepped gingerly into a bunker. When his short par was conceded, he took a knee. Exactly what happened was not entirely clear because Day immediately sought treatment and left without speaking. But with a long week ahead of him at Austin Country Club, and the Masters just two weeks away, this victory surely felt hollow.

Without much drama on the golf course because of tough greens and Texas wind, Day supplied it with the latest in a long list of injuries.

Jordan Spieth, a crowd favorite who helped Texas to a national title in 2012, produced what the crowd came to see. The No. 1 player built an early lead, made a few pivotal putts to stay in control and beat Jamie Donaldson of Wales, 3 and 2.

Rory McIlroy escaped with a victory. He never led until winning on the 18th hole when Thorbjorn Olesen shanked a chip. Martin Kaymer rode the wind and drove the green on the 376-yard 18th hole to wrap up a 1-up victory over Shane Lowry. Matt Kuchar had the shortest day, dispatching Anirban Lahiri in 13 holes.

Day overcame an early deficit and had the match in hand when he first felt pain. The severity of the injury was unclear. Day left without speaking to reporters, and his agent later sent a statement that he tweaked his back, had some work done on it, was pleased with winning and is getting prepared to play Thursday.

Day told the Australian Associated Press before getting treatment, "It's really hard to play with searing pain in both sides of your lower back. Just my back has seized up and I need to get inside right away for treatment and see what's wrong."

There was no need to worry about Spieth. He had the largest crowd and delivered a solid performance by going 4 up through seven holes.

A-Rod says he plans to retire after 2017 season

VIERA, Fla. (AP)—Alex Rodriguez says he plans to retire from baseball after the 2017 season, when his $275 million, 10-year contract with the New York Yankees expires.

The 40-year-old slugger, fourth the career home-run list with 687, revealed his intentions Wednesday during an interview with ESPN. His plan was confirmed by spokesman Ron Berkowitz.

"I won't play after next year," the three-time AL MVP was quoted as saying by ESPN. "I've really enjoyed my time. For me, it is time for me to go home and be Dad."

Rodriguez is 75 homers shy of matching Barry Bonds' career record and likely would be unable to reach it unless he plays into 2018. Also ahead of him are Babe Ruth (714) and Hank Aaron (755).

"He's going to be 42 at the end of his contract. You don't see players playing really past that age. I'm not surprised," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said before Wednesday night's exhibition game against Washington.

But Girardi said this may not be Rodriguez's final decision.

"I think he's allowed to change his mind," the manager said. "With his love of playing the game and competing, if he had two really good years, I wouldn't be surprised if he changed his mind."

Rodriguez, who joined the Yankees in 2004 after playing for Seattle and Texas, was suspended for the 2014 season by Major League Baseball for violations of the sport's drug agreement and labor contract. He returned last season, shifted from third base to designated hitter and batted .250 with 33 homers and 86 RBIs despite a late slump.

"I don't think it should be too big of a surprise. He's almost 50 years old, right?" Yankees left fielder Brett Gardner said. "The numbers obviously speak for themselves. He's been a lot of fun to be around the last year, year-and-a-half since he came back."

Girardi would not predict whether Rodriguez would be a Hall of Famer.

"That's to be judged because of what he's been through," Girardi said. "Obviously, everyone that has been found guilty of the PED, they (haven't) been allowed in the Hall of Fame yet."

Girardi thinks there will be a place for Rodriguez in baseball once his playing days are over. Girardi said "he'd be great" as a coach.

AP

New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez, right, talks to Reggie Jackson during the second inning of a spring training baseball game against the Atlanta Braves, Saturday, March 19, 2016, in Tampa, Fla.

NFL approves ejection proposal for 1-year trial

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP)—The NFL is putting some bite in its on-field discipline.

NFL owners on Wednesday approved as a one-year trial ejecting a player who draws two unsportsmanlike conduct penalties from specific categories. Those categories include throwing a punch at or kicking an opponent; taunting; and using abusive, threatening or insulting language or gestures.

It's not quite as strong as what Commissioner Roger Goodell suggested during Super Bowl week when asked about players committing flagrant fouls. But it's a step in trying to curb unsportsmanlike conduct penalties, which hit a high of 75 in 2015.

"Sportsmanship is important to the membership," Goodell said as the owners' meetings concluded. "We all have standards. They have two unsportsmanlike conduct penalties before they're ejected. The message from the membership, our clubs and the coaches is they're going to be held to those high standards."

Atlanta Falcons President Rich McKay, co-chairman of the competition committee that proposed the change, said the rule was amended from permanent to one season after feedback from coaches.

"We have made it a point of emphasis every time we felt like it's beginning to cross the line," McKay said of unsportsmanlike conduct penalties. "We have not been able to affect sportsmanship in the way we think we need to, so this year we have another section on sportsmanship. We have specific points we are emphasizing on sportsmanship.

"But we felt like we needed a rule to make sure that the players are held accountable to what we expect them to do and how we expect them to conduct themselves."

Also approved Wednesday as a one-year trial was placing the ball at the 25-yard line after touchbacks on kickoffs instead of at the 20. The league is seeking ways to reduce injuries on kickoff returns, which it says statistically are the most dangerous plays in the game.

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Oregon takes national stage vs defending champ Duke

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)— Dillon Brooks and his top-seeded Oregon Ducks have a golden opportunity to get college basketball's full attention Thursday night.

That's because their Sweet Sixteen opponent, fourth-seeded Duke, travels under the biggest spotlight in the sport.

"I know a lot of the guys are really motivated," said Brooks, Oregon's top scorer. "We've been watching Duke all our lives, and once we see the lettering, `D-U-K-E,' we're going to come out there with red on our face and just really take it to them."

After a remarkable regular season and a strong start to the NCAA Tournament, the Ducks (30-6) realize the magnitude of their date with the enigmatic Blue Devils (25-10) in the arena better known as the home of the NHL's Anaheim Ducks.

Although Oregon won the Pac-12 title and reached the NCAA Tournament for a school-record fourth straight year under coach Dana Altman, these Ducks still fly under the national radar. They get only a fraction of the attention given to their school's football program, or the West's traditional hoops powers like Arizona, UCLA and Gonzaga.

A win over the defending national champions could help to turn a football school into a national hoops name.

"Our basketball tradition is not that great," Altman said. "We're working hard to improve that. This is a point in our time that we need to play well on the national stage against someone that is very good and has proven themselves."

AP
Oregon forward Elgin Cook (23) is fouled by Holy Cross forward Jehyve Floyd (20) as he shoots during the second half of a first-round men's college basketball game in the NCAA Tournament in Spokane, Wash., Friday, March 18, 2016.

Altman sees Duke as "a brand all by itself in college basketball," even in a year in which coach Mike Krzyzewski has only three big contributors left from last season's run to the Blue Devils' fifth title.

Duke lost four of its final seven games heading into the NCAAs, but still reached the Sweet Sixteen for the 15th time since 1998.

"I'm proud of our team," Krzyzewski said after practice. "Young, kind of limited in numbers, but they've really grown tough together and earned their way here."

With the rebuilt roster clicking around freshman phenomenon Brandon Ingram and sophomore scorer Grayson Allen, Duke has more than enough raw talent and refined scoring ability to make any opponent wary— even the deep, balanced Ducks.

"The (older) guys in our room, they've been here before and they tell us a lot of things," said Ingram, who scored 45 combined points in Duke's first two NCAA Tournament games. "We know that coming into these games, everyone is going to give us their best shot. So we've had to come out with a lot of poise and battle back."

Oregon and Duke have met only once before. The Blue Devils were also the defending national champions in November 2010, and they routed the Ducks 98-71 in Altman's sixth game at the school. "I'd rather forget that game," Altman said. "That was our first year, and we were not very good. They got us pretty good."

Big men could play a large role in this game. Duke has an abundance of height with 7-footer Miles Plumlee, the 6-foot-9 Ingram and the 6-10 Chase Jeter, while Oregon shot-blockers Chris Boucher and Jordan Bell can alter any team's plans to attack the basket. "I always wanted to play against Duke growing up," said Bell, a native of nearby Long Beach. "That was my goal coming into college, just to play them at least one time. It's great that I get to play them at home."

DFS employees to join Hafa Adai 5K

DFS will be joining the PIC Hafa Adai 5K set for April 9.

This will be the third running of the event. This year's beneficiary will be the NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross. DFS is upping the ante and encouraging other businesses to follow suit as they will be sponsoring their employees to participate in the biggest event on Saipan.

"DFS is proud to support the Hafa Adai 5K in conjunction with PIC's fundraising efforts. In addition to its sponsorship, DFS encourages its employees to participate in the event to promote wellness and community involvement. DFS funds the registration fees for 50 of its employees who will be representing the company at the event on April 9," said Marian Aldan-Pierce, division president, DFS Saipan Limited

The 5K will start and end at PIC Saipan and will feature five different coloring stations along the Beach Road route. Participants are encouraged to wear white attire so that the full effect of the coloring stations can be seen post-race. Volunteers will be celebrating each runner's arrival by greeting them with "holi powder." This is a biodegradable mixture of corn starch and food coloring.

"It is always great to see organizations like DFS encouraging their employees and families to get out and stay active," said Sports, Entertainment and Activities director Glenn Policare. "This event promotes wellness, team spirit and above all the willingness to help others."

Nearly 600 participants have registered to date. While people are more than welcome to register the day of the event, they are highly encouraged to preregister.

"Last year, we sold out three nights before race day," said race director Keoni Ichihara. "This is the largest gathering of runners on island for any single event so we strongly urge the community to register ahead of time."

Entry fees are only $10. Entry forms for the Hafa Adai 5K can be found at the PIC lobby and are also available at Triple J Motors on Beach Road, Gold's Gym, Boarderlne in Garapan and at the MVA office. The Hafa Adai 5K starts at 7:30am sharp.

For more information, please contact Ichihara at 237-5174. ***(PR)***

SEMIS

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tallied a 3-1 record to place second.

In the women's doubles A, Alma Ortega and Choi led the semis cast as they finished first in the five-team field with their 4-0 record. Completing the Final Four roster were Pangilinan and Savellano, Lanie Bartolome and Windy Fernandez, and the Malasartes.

The mother and daughter pair of Malou and Nicole will face Choi and Ortega as the Malasartes were ranked fourth with their 1-3 record. Savellano and Pangilinan took the No. 2 spot with their 3-1 mark to set a semis date against Fernandez and Bartolome, who wrapped up the elimination with a 2-2 slate.

Nicole is also in the semis in the women's doubles B, as she and teammate Ito finished first in their group with a clean 4-0 record. Ortega and Fernandez were ranked second with their 3-1 mark, followed by Julie and Erica Jung (2-2) and Sison and Cheng Saturno (1-3).

In the men's doubles AB, Jordan Pangilinan and Joel Ortega and Daniel Macario and Oh topped Groups A and B, respectively, to advance to the semis. Pangilinan and Ortega's Final Four foes are Galvez and Rodwealth Espana, who finished second in Group B with their 3-1 mark. Oh and Macario also had a 3-1 record, but won the tiebreak and will meet Group A No.2 finishers Glenn Buultjens, who earned a 3-1 slate.

In the men's doubles B, Patrick Jake Fieldad and Oh led the field with their 4-1 record, prevailing against Ortega and Jun Sik Kim in the tiebreak for first place. Espana and Ezekiel Macario and Hilario and Guerrero rounded out the semis cast after posting similar 3-2 marks.

In the men's doubles C, A.J. Ortega and Patrick Fernandez are in the semis after ruling Group A with their 3-1 record. Rovin and Tae Ho Kim got the other Final Four ticket in Group A with their 2-2 mark, while Morgan and Jun Sik Kim (4-0) and Henry and Hajin Oh took the semis berths in Group B.

PIC

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The Sonics gunner then took a breather in the second frame, but his teammates stepped up to keep the double-digit spread at the break, 39-23. The Sonics went on to register its biggest lead in the third canto, 53-30, and were never threatened as the best that Customs could do was moved within 12, early in the fourth, 46-58.

Meanwhile, DFS won the other game last Wednesday night after outclassing NMSA Spartans, 77-72.

DFS withstood the Spartans' fourth-quarter rally to pull off the 5-point win.

Ivan Devero and Junar Guiab hit clutch baskets in the final canto to save DFS. They combined for 11 of DFS' last 13 markers with Devero drilling 4 straight markers and Guiab adding 3 consecutive markers to foil the Spartans' come-from-behind bid.

The Spartans had to fight back in the final canto after falling behind by 17, 43-60, at the end of the third period. Preston Basa anchored the recovery with his 3-point shooting, but fell short in the end with Devero and Guiab coming into DFS' rescue.

Devero top-scored for DFS with his 22 markers, while Marlon De Dios contributed 17, including the team's last basket. Guiab added 9 for DFS, which drew at least 6 points each from five other players.

Nak Nakashima led the Spartans with his 20 markers, while Basa registered 18 despite reporting for the match only in the second half.

BRAVES

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who eventually reached third base off the Braves' miscues. However, Podziewski was left stranded at third when Devon Pangelinan flied out at leftfield and Fleming was beaten to first base.

The Red Sox played catch up as they scored three and 4 runs in the first and third and were shut down in the second, fourth, and fifth inning. The Braves, on the other hand, made up for a slow start, as they tacked on five runs apiece in the second and fourth after being held to one run at the bottom of the first.

Meanwhile, the Comets cruised to an 11-2 win over the Red Sox in the Junior League game yesterday.

Ahead by only 3, 4-1, after four complete innings, the Comets pulled away at the top of the fifth after scoring six runs.

Ethan Babauta, who pitched a complete game, blasted a two-run double in the pivotal inning, while Brandon Pua and Aurel Mendiola each had an RBI single, and Elijah Villar posted an RBI walk. Babauta also scored one run off a Red Sox's error.

The Red Sox never threatened the Comets after that, as the former tallied only one run in the last three innings, courtesy of Nate Anson's sacrifice out.

Babauta registered eight strikeouts in the easy win.

There were three games scheduled at the "Tan Ko" field yesterday, but the Big League tiff between the Braves and the Islanders was rescheduled due to the unavailability of umpires.

Sonics, 2 others earn lopsided victories

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rollers Blue, Kagman Risers, and the Sonics coasted to wins in the U18 division games in the Inaugural Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League this week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Rollers Blue played last Wednesday and whipped the Tanapag Warriors, 62-39, while the Kagman Risers pounded Rollers Red last Tuesday, 58-27, and the Sonics dominated Rollers White, 81-64, last Monday.

The Sonics set the double-digit winning margin after pulling away in the second quarter and limiting Rollers White to 4 points in that period. The Sonics turned a 21-17 advantage in the first canto to a 36-21 halftime edge after getting contributions from six different players. While the Sonics had a balance offense, only Dalton Dancoe scored all of Rollers White's 4 markers in the second-frame meltdown.

The Sonics never relinquished the double-digit lead as they continued to shuffle their men and spread the wealth. Mike Espinosa paced the Sonics with his 17 points and seven of his teammates added at least 6 points apiece to lift the Jesse Tudela-coached squad to victory.

In the Rollers Blue-Tanapag Warriors tiff, the former leaned on Aaron Ogumoro's 21 markers for the lopsided win. Jun Alipio backed up Ogumoro, chipping in 15, while Christian Arceo also finished in double figures with his 14.

Rollers Blue's trio combined for 17 points in the opening canto to power their team to a 25-13 advantage. The Warriors failed to make enough headway in the last three quarters, allowing Rollers Blue to take the 27-point winning margin.

A.J. Evangelista led the Warriors' losing cause with his 15 markers.

In last Tuesday's game, Kagman held Rollers Red to 3 points in the first canto to secure the 31-point win.

Adelbert Quitugua hit the lone field goal for Rollers Red in the first frame, while five players teamed up for 12 points for Kagman.

Khalid Islam scored 4 of those 12 markers and added 8 in the second quarter to stretch Kagman's lead to a baker's dozen at the break, 26-13. Islam kept going in third period, firing 9 more to lead Kagman's breakaway, 41-21. Dizon Magofna then finished things for Kagman, delivering 8 markers in the final canto.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Sonics' Mike Arciaga, center, challenges, the defense of two Rollers White players during their U18 division game in the Diaz youth caging last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

One title fight, 14 supporting bouts in ROP 19

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Trench Tech will kick off the 2016 season next month with the staging of Rites of Passage 19: Seek and Destroy on April 22 at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

One title fight, 11 supporting MMA bouts, and three kickboxing matches are featured in Trench Tech's offerings. The title bout will be an all-Guam affair as Ryan "The Predator" Toves of High Blood Pressure takes on Spike 22's Rob Wusstig for the lightweight (155lbs) championship belt.

For the kickboxing matches, Trench Tech's Dicky "Scrappy Doo" Feria will open the night as he challenges Ultimate Martial Arts Guam's Chris "Karate Hottie" San Nicolas in a 150-lb catch weight. The two other K1 fights will have another Ultimate Martial Arts Guam bet in Jayvin "The Prodigy" Reyes battling Team No Team's Marc Catindig at 135lb and Trench Tech's Jordan "Manglona" squaring up anew against Ultimate Martial Arts Guam's Ethan "Typhoon" Reyes.

Meanwhile, independent fighter Timmy Salas and Taga Tech's Jonrey "Illest" Gilles will have their debuts at the octagon cage as they collide in the first MMA bout of the night. Up next will be the 125-lb duel between Team No Team's Noel Sanchez and Ground Fu's Eric "The Sand Man" Reyes, while the third MMA tiff will have another independent fighter in Vince Torres challenging Guam Muay Thai's Khalil "K-Nunu" Toves.

Jay "Tabi" Muna will return to MMA when he takes on Ground Fu's Shane Torres, while Jones Langu of Red Ants Academy will also be back on the eight sides when he faces High Blood Pressure's Frank Meno in a 155-lb bout. Trench Tech's "Sloppy" Joe Lee will have the same catch weight (155lbs) when he meets independent fighter Allen "The Samurai" Cepeda, who will have his ROP debut.

Also seeing action in ROP for the first time is Guam Muay Thai's Justin"Ichi Banger" Quichocho who will go up against Zalaka's Bradley "Kaboom" Manalo, while the latter's stablemate Andrew "Top Gun" Sablan will take on Ground Fu's Juan Lizama.

The last three supporting bouts will have the heavyweights as Hit Shot's Derek "Hot Shot" Naog duels High Blood Pressure's Chris Tabligan at 170lbs; Vince "The Big Time" Lujan, also of High Blood Pressure, battles Ultimate Martial Arts' Camilo "The Beast" Noket at 180lbs; and independent fighter Ryan"Ttrobz" Ngirbabul faces Guam Muay Thai's Marc "Dos Ekkis" Vidaurri at 205 lbs.

The roster of bouts in ROP 19 is subject to changes, while Trench Tech also named seven standby fighters. The list includes Angel Palacios, Slade Adelbai, Kyle Paulino, Jeff Mesa, Ray Duenas, Vincent Campos, and Roque Martinez.

Tickets for ROP 19 will soon be sold in selected establishments. For more information, contact Cuki Alvarez are 783-4662.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Derek "Hot Shot" Naog is one of the fighters to be featured in Trench Tech's Rites of Passage 19: Seek and Destroy as he takes on High Blood Pressure's Chris Tabligan in a 170-lbs bout on April 22 at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort

Powerade, Foremost support 'Great Balls of Fire'

Coca-Cola and Foremost will be the exclusive beverage partners of the CNMI Fire and EMS Association's Inaugural "Great Balls of Fire" golf tournament set for this Saturday at the Marianas Country Club.

Powerade and Foremost Blend Coffee will be served to golfers. Coca-Cola and Foremost Hydration Team will serve ice-cold Foremost Blend Coffee to perk up the players, organizers, and supporters at the registration, while Powerade will keep the players hydrated throughout the game.

Powerade is distributed by Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) and Foremost Blend is a product of Foremost Foods Saipan. Proceeds from the golf tournament will support both active and retired firefighters with their various needs.

The tournament will have three divisions: men's, women's double peoria, and men's double peoria. The Top 2 placers in the men's category will win $500 and $300, while the champion in the women's field will get $500 and the runner-up will bring home a purse from DFS/T Galleria worth $500. The champion in the men's double peoria will also take $500 cash, while the second and third finishers will receive golf certificate at MCC for six months and $200, respectively.

Golfers are encouraged to join the optional play for $5 as there will be prizes for nearest pin, longest drive, and most accurate drive categories. A brand new car is also at stake as hole-in-one prize, while other raffle prizes will be given away at the end of the competition.

Registration fee is only $80 and show time is at 6am, while a shotgun start is set at 7am. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Foremost Foods Saipan assistant operations manager Ailene Benavidez, fourth left, and Foremost Hydration Team member Ranilo Enriquez, right, are joined by CNMI Fire and EMS Association officers, from left, Paul Sasamoto, Derrick Gersonde, president; Vanessa Diaz, secretary; John J. Concepcion, and John San Nicolas, vice president, for a group photo at the Foremost Hydration Booth.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Coca-Cola assistant operations manager Ailene Benavidez, third left, and Ranilo Enriquez, Powerade Hydration Team member, join W CNMI Fire and EMS Association officers, from left, Paul Sasamoto, Derrick Gersonde, president; Vanessa Diaz, secretary; John J. Concepcion, and John San Nicolas, vice president, for a group photo at Powerade Hydration Booth.

Curry powers Warriors to 51st straight home win

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Braves slip past Red Sox, 13-12

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Braves player delivers a pitch to the Red Sox during their earlier Junior League game in the SLLB at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Braves pulled off a 13-12 victory over the Red Sox in their Junior League game in the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball yesterday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Vicente Camacho scored the winning run, as he reached home plate at the bottom of the seventh and last inning off a wild pitch from Orren Cruz. Camacho made the dagger with the Red Sox just one out away from forcing the game into an extra inning.

The Red Sox got the first out after Braves leadoff batter Jordan Babauta was beaten to first on a 5-3 play, and the second when shortstop Henry Fleming caught a fly ball from Anthony Dizon. Camacho then batted third for the Braves and advanced to first off a Red Sox error at third base. Camacho went on to move to second off a passed ball and stole third base to boost the Braves' chances to win the match in regulation.

The close victory saved the Braves from collapsing, as they bungled an 11-7 lead, while the Red Sox mounted a comeback in the sixth inning. A five-run top of the sixth put the Red Sox on top, 12-11. Cruz hit an RBI double, while Derrick Reusora nailed an RBI single, and the Red Sox got three runs off the Braves errors in that rally.

A sacrifice fly from Josenio Alvarez at the bottom of the sixth forced the deadlock and the game remained tied after the top of the seventh with the Braves' defense preventing the Red Scores from scoring again. Closer Robin Sablan struck out Cruz before walking Dai Podziewski,

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Semis cast in IT&E doubles tourney complete

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Final Four qualifiers in the IT&E Doubles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition 2016 were completed as elimination round games wrapped up over the weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

In the mixed doubles A, siblings Jordan and Janelle Pangilinan and Daniel Macario and Hannah Choi bagged the two semis seats in Group A after taking the Top 2 spots in the pool. The Pangilinans were unbeaten in four games to lead Group A, while Choi and Macario had an even 2-2 record.

In Group B, the qualifiers were Deether Edralin and Jenne Savellano and Andreau Galvez and Malou Malasarte, as they ended up with 4-0 and 3-1 records, respectively. Edralin and Savellano will fave Choi and Macario in the semis round that will start next weekend, while Malasarte and Galvez will collide against the Pangilinan siblings in the other Final Four pairing.

In the mixed doubles B, the two semis matches will have Cris Hilario and Windy Fernandez battling Oh Im Bog and Rowena Sison and Nathan Guerrero and Nicole Malasarte challenging Jeff Riman and Loida Ito. Fernandez and Hilario ruled Group A with their 3-1 record, while Ito and Riman were ranked second after earning a 2-2 mark. Nicole and Guerrero topped Group B with their undefeated 4-0 slate, while Oh and Sison

JON PEREZ
Lanie Bartolome serves during one of the games in the IT&E Doubles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition 2016 early this month at the TSL Sports Complex. Bartolome and Windy Fernandez made it to the semi-finals of the women's doubles A division.

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PIC pounces on Customs to win debut

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Pacific Islands Club's Mike Espinosa soars for a layup during their game against Custom in the IT&E inter-government/business league last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club debuted strong in the 2016 IT&E Inter-Gov't/Business Basketball League following a 75-55 demolition of Customs last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

PIC's youngblood got the job done, as former MISO standouts Jack Aranda, Mike Espinosa, and Emerson Feria teamed up in the easy victory. Aranda led all scorers with his 21 points, while Espinosa chipped in 17, and Feria also finished in double figures with his 10 markers.

Aranda and company dominated the match right at the get-go, taking a 21-9 advantage in the first quarter. Aranda fired up early, knocking in 11 markers in the opening canto, including 8 straight late in that period.

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